

INDEX

Message by the Chairman (HH Gopal Krishna Maharaj)	02
From the Director's Desk	03
Message by Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi	04

SECTION 01 **SRILA PRABHUPADA SPEAKS** 05-06

SECTION 02	THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN	
	01 Vrindaranyam- The new home for BGIS	07-09
	02 Kirtan Mela @ Vrindaranyam - the Holy inauguration of new BGIS campus	10-11
	03 Result 2018-19	12
	04 BGIS wins Inter-school Debate Competition	13
	05 BGIS wins Bhagavad Gita Recitation Event in Dehradun	13
	05 BGIS wins Gold Medal in Karate Championship in Meerut	13
	06 Annual Sports Day -2018	14
	07 Eminent Guests @ BGIS	15-16

SECTION 03	FOOD FOR THOUGHT	
	01 Can We Build a Conscious Machine? Dr. Laxmidhar Behera	17-19
	02 What is experience ? - Surananda Das	20-21
	03 Learning English through Srimad Bhagavatam by Madhumati Pushkarini Devi Dasi	22-24
	04 Compassion- A quality that is missing among us (PurushottamGupta 8th)	25
	05 Has Technology indeed made man's life comfortable? (Akshay Parmar, Grade 10)	25
	06 Being Tolerant (Kush - Grade 9)	26
	07 Who knows....what's tomorrow? (Prahlad - Grade 9)	27

SECTION 04	WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT	
	Teacher Training Programme – July 2018	28
	Portable Biogas Plant	29-30
	Team Project: Traditional Approach to Water Filtration.	31-32
	Low Cost Eco-friendly Housing	33-34
	Environmental Concerns: Waste Management	35-37
	Robotics	38-39
	“Smart-Low Budget-Natural Farming”	40-42
	Academic camp	43-44

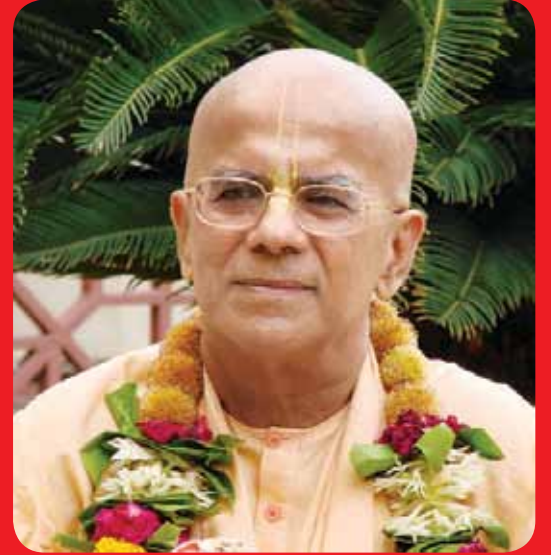
SECTION 05	FESTIVALS AT BGIS	
	Janmashtami 2018 @ Vrindaranyam	45-48
	Radhashtami Celebration & Janmashtami Appreciation Ceremony	49
	Ramachandra Vijayostava - Vijaya Dashami	49
	Nityananda Trayodashi 2019	50
	Narasimha Chaturdasi- 2019	51

SECTION 06	ENLIVENING STUDENT TRIPS	
	Haridwar Trip	
	School Trip to Rishikesh (Prahlad / Grade : 9)	52
	Experiences of school retreat of Haridwar (Ujjwal Raj / Class-IX)	53
	Guru Purnima – Teacher's day	54
	Mayapur Yatra 2019	55-56

SECTION 07	A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDER	
	Selected Offerings by students	57-61

MESSAGE BY THE CHAIRMAN

śrī-prahrāda uvāca
kaumāra ācaret prājño
dharmān bhāgavatān iha
durlabhaṁ mānuṣaṁ janma
tad apy adhravam arthadam



Prahlāda Mahārāja said: One who is sufficiently intelligent should use the human form of body from the very beginning of life — in other words, from the tender age of childhood — to practice the activities of devotional service, giving up all other engagements. The human body is most rarely achieved, and although temporary like other bodies, it is meaningful because in human life one can perform devotional service. Even a slight amount of sincere devotional service can give one complete perfection. Srimad Bhagavatam 7.6.1

In this verse Prahlad Maharaj states that the human form of life is very rare and he emphasizes strongly that one must practice devotional service from childhood. Unfortunately the educational system that we have in the schools and colleges of today do not cater to this instruction given by Prahlad Maharaj. Most of the educational institutions focus only on sense of gratification and education is aimed at economic welfare. As a result there is a rapid rate of increase in problems like crimes and drug abuse in schools.

As parents and teachers it's our duty to make sure that the children receive both materialistic and spiritual education. Devotional service is so powerful that even a little endeavor in that path can save one from greatest difficulty. The best means of spiritual practice for this age is chanting of the Holy Names.

Srila Prabhupada found gurukulas based on this verse spoken by the great devotee Prahlad Maharaj wherein he says that spiritual education should be given right from childhood. Srila Prabhupada had laid the foundation stone for Bhaktivedanta Gurukula in Vrindavan on 13 September, 1975. I was there in the program. The land was donated by Bhagat ji. The construction of that building was completed in 1977. Srila Prabhupada wanted students from all over the world to come to the Vrindavan gurukula to receive spiritual education.

By Srila Prabhupad's mercy, we have created a nice infrastructure for the school in this new campus which is at par with any good school in India. The new campus is spread over 100 acres of land with organic farming and gaushala. It is a pollution free green campus and I hope it will become one of the best schools in India.

I want to thank all the donors who have contributed for the development of this campus. I wish good luck to Dr Lila Puroshottam Prabhu and his team.

*Thank you very much.
Hare krishna.*

*HH Gopal Krihna Goswami
Chairman, ISKCON India
GBC and BBT Trustee*

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Students, Parents and Well-wishers

Hare Krishna! Please accept my warm greetings on behalf of Srila Prabhupada, Sri Sri Krishna Balarama and BGIS family.

Finally we are in Vrindaranayam free from traffic noises and the cacophony associated with large crowds. The serenity of the place can be easily felt in the early morning hour as the transcendental silence takes you to the core of your own self. The attentive chanting in this wee hours makes one feel to be at home – in the conscious-space beyond mundane space and time. The organic farm, Manasi Ganga, beautiful goshala and newly planted trees are adding to the spiritual stimulation. After all this is the place of the eternal pastimes of Sri Sri Krishna Balarama where the pastimes of the killing of demon Aghasura took place. Our well-wisher Sri Kalapi Jani is making a diorama of Aghasura near Manasi Ganga. He is also leading the effort to manifest SriKaliya Krishna in the front of the academic building. The aesthetic beauty is getting enhanced every day as all our inmates are putting efforts in their journey to excel and please Krishna. The smiling faces of our gurukula kids have raised the glow of our community. This is why we all worked hard to build this campus where the foundations of complete future individuals will be laid out.

It is time that we build the brand BGIS. BGIS must be the trend setters for others. Srila Prabhupada taught us how to be creative, vibrant and empathetic while embracing all compassionate mercy of Sri Sri Guru Gauranga. In years down the line, the best illuminating leaders in any field of activities across the globe must be a product of BGIS. Here are two underlining principles to reach that glory:

1. Character Building: BGIS students will be nurtured to maintain fit body and healthy mind. Sports, physical exercises, Yoga, Kirtana and dancing will be administered in a balanced manner. Cleanliness – both external and internal - will be cultivated so that these students will always shine in terms of clarity of thought and life-revealing purposes.

2. Svadhyaya (Self Study): When a student knows his nature, then he does not need to be tutored. He learns by the process of Svadhyaya. This is the greatest challenge for the modern educators. BGIS teachers are expected to perfect this art of knowing the nature of each student and create a personalized learning atmosphere where every individual will naturally participate in perfecting his skills – academics, arts, music, sports, and whatnot – as branches connected to the Absolute Truth – Sri Krishna.

We will conduct workshops, involve experts and seek the blessings and guidance of Srila Prabhupada to achieve these goals.

This wonderful campus has come into life because of sacrifices of many dedicated stalwarts. It is my duty to acknowledge their efforts. Radhakanta Prabhu took the responsibility of developing this campus as he worked with architects, and builders tirelessly. He was ably assisted by Madhusudan Mukunda Prabhu. He also led the team of fundraisers and collected majority portion of funds under the guidance of HH Gopal Krishna Maharaja. Hanuman Prabhu from Delhi temple played a crucial role in getting CSR funds. When gurukula reserve got emptied in the middle of constructions, Piyush Prabhu ensured a large CSR funds that enabled us to shift to Vrindaranayam in April 2019. All these activities which started from the beginning of 2015 required a secured environment. When nobody was willing to dread the isolations and being ostracised among the wilds, Krishna sent an apt warrior in the form of Srinivas Krishna Prabhu. This navy retired professional ensured the comfort of being secured, while he engaged himself in zero cost natural farming and Goshala care.

While the new project was being developed, the academic staff lead by Harikesh Prabhu and Lila Govind Prabhu ensured the smooth impart of education in our old campus being fraught with inimical aliens of many kinds. Vrindaranayam has now liberated both teachers and students alike. Many qualified teachers have joined us to make this campus academically grave, devotionally resplendent and culturally full of fun and joy. The CPT team lead by Sri Gaura Prabhu has set up an invincible layer of protection for our children from any kind of abuse.

My heartfelt gratitude to all our donors whose generosity made this project to be completed in time. All parents who put trust on us by sending their kids to our school are praiseworthy. I assure them that the future of their sons is secured here.

Without guidance of our GBC HH Gopal Krishna Maharaja, we could not have made it to this stage – at many times it appeared that the ocean is too deep for us to sustain. But he fought and gave the legitimacy to our service. Thank you Maharaj for being there to hand-guide us in those difficult moments.

Our heartfelt gratitude is especially reserved for Lord Narshimha Deva worshipped by Nanda Maharaj, currently worshipped near Punchri Ka Lota at the foothills of Govardhan. He exhibited His many mystical potencies to remove many obstacles during the execution of this project.

Please visit us – Vrindaranayam is always ready to give you a red-carpet welcome.

I hope this issue of BGIS annual magazine will reveal many aspects of Gurukula life, and its celebrations in multitudes of dimensions. Lord Sri Sri Krishna Balarama bless you all.

*Yours in service to Srila Prabhupada
Lila Purusottama Dasa*



The celebration of the auspicious festival of Janmashtami is a blessed occasion for the innumerable devotees of Shri Krishna.

ISKCON has been making a remarkable contribution in spreading the divine philosophy, wisdom and message of Shri Krishna. Its members have been serving the humanity through its numerous philanthropic mission underlining the non-duality of service to God and humanity.

The relevance of Shri Krishna's message of peace, unbounded spiritual love and bliss is timeless and universal in its appeal. His sublime instruction to humanity to perform duty without attachment to its fruits continues to be even more relevant today.

The spiritual effulgence of Srimad Bhagvad Gita is a heritage that has resonated far and wide. ISKCON has been playing a significant role in helping the entire humanity benefit from the profound wisdom and guidance of the Bhagvad Gita. An inspiring treatise, Bhagvad Gita teaches us how to face and act in difficult situations in life. It is a comprehensive manual that contains solution in every challenge faced by mankind.

As the ISKCON fraternity celebrates Janmashtami, let us all beseech Shri Krishna to bless and guide the mankind. May the collective chant of 'Hare Krishna' pervade the spirit and bestow His grace on all the devotees and members of the ISKCON family.

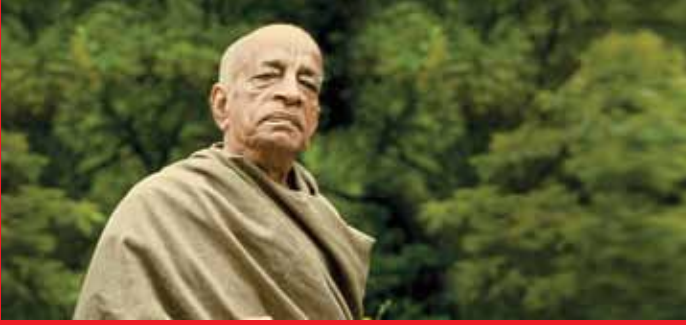
I extend my best wishes to the ISKCON fraternity and pray that the spiritual vibes of Janmashtami celebrations resonate far and wide and make the world a better place.

New Delhi
भाषण 25, शक संवत् 1941
16th August, 2019
Shri Vrajendranandan Das
National Communication Director
ISKCON, Hare Krishna Hill
Sant Nagar, Main Road, East of Kailash
New Delhi - 110065



(Narendra Modi)

SRILA PRABHUPADA SPEAKS



ISHOPANISHAD MANTRA 11

*vidyā □ cāvidyā □ ca yas
tad vedobhaya □ saha
avidyayā m □ tyu □ tīrtvā
vidyayām □ tam aśnute*

PURPORT

Since the creation of the material world, everyone has been trying to attain a permanent life, but the laws of nature are so cruel that no one has been able to avoid the hand of death. No one wants to die, nor does anyone want to become old or diseased. The law of nature, however, does not allow anyone immunity from old age, disease or death. Nor has the advancement of material knowledge solved these problems. Material science can discover the nuclear bomb to accelerate the process of death, but it cannot discover anything that can protect man from the cruel hands of old age, disease and death.

From the Puranas we learn other activities of Hiranyakasipu, a king who was very advanced materially. Wanting to conquer cruel death by his material acquisitions and the strength of his nescience, he underwent a type of meditation so severe that the inhabitants of all the planetary systems became disturbed by his mystic powers. He forced the creator of the universe, the demigod Brahma, to come down to him. He then asked Brahma for the benediction of becoming amara, by which one does not die. Brahma said that he could not award the benediction because even he, the material creator who rules all planets, is not amara. As confirmed in the Bhagavad-gita (8.17), Brahma lives a long time, but that does not mean he is immortal.

Hiranya means "gold," and kasipu means "soft bed." This cunning gentleman Hiranyakasipu was interested in these two things—money and women—and he wanted to enjoy them by becoming immortal. He asked from Brahma many benedictions in hopes of indirectly fulfilling his desire to become immortal. Since Brahma told him that he could

Only one who can learn the process of nescience and that of transcendental knowledge side by side can transcend the influence of repeated birth and death and enjoy the full blessings of immortality.

that he could not grant the gift of immortality, Hiranyakasipu requested that he should not be killed by any man, animal, God or any other living being within the 8,400,000 species. He also asked that he should not die on land, or in the air or water, or by any weapon. In this way Hiranyakasipu foolishly thought these guarantees would save him from death. Ultimately, however, although Brahma granted him all these benedictions, he was killed by the Personality of Godhead in the form of Narsimha, the Lord's half-lion, half-man incarnation, and no weapon was used to kill him, for he was killed by the Lord's nails. Neither he was killed on the land, nor in the air. Neither in the water, as he was killed on the lap of that wonderful living being, Narsimha, who was beyond his conception.

The whole point here is that even Hiranyakasipu, the most powerful of materialists, could not become immortal by his various plans. What, then, can be accomplished by the tiny Hiranyakasipus of today, whose plans are thwarted from moment to moment?

Sri Isopanisad instructs us not to make one-sided attempts to win the struggle for existence. Everyone is struggling hard for existence, but the laws of material nature are so hard and fast that they do not allow anyone to surpass them. In order to attain a permanent life, one must be prepared to go back to Godhead.

The process by which one goes back to Godhead is a different branch of knowledge, and it has to be learned from revealed Vedic scriptures such as the Upanisads, Vedanta-sutra, Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. To become happy in this life and attain a permanent blissful life after leaving this material body, one must study this sacred literature and obtain transcendental knowledge. The conditioned living being has forgotten his eternal relationship with God and has mistakenly accepted the temporary place of his birth as all in all. The Lord has kindly delivered the above-mentioned scriptures in India and other scriptures in other countries to remind the forgetful human being that his home is not here in this material world. The living being is a spiritual entity, and he can be happy only by returning to his spiritual home.

From his kingdom the Personality of Godhead sends His bonafide servants to propagate this message by which one can return to Godhead, and sometimes the Lord comes Himself to do this work. Since all living beings are His beloved sons, His parts and parcels, God is more sorry than we ourselves to see the sufferings we are constantly undergoing in this material condition. The miseries of this material world serve to indirectly remind us of our incompatibility with dead matter.

transcendental knowledge. Human life is the best opportunity for the culture of spiritual knowledge, and a human being who does not take advantage of this opportunity is called a naradhama, the lowest of human beings.

The path of avidya, or advancement of material knowledge for sense gratification, is the path of repeated birth and death. As he exists spiritually, the living entity has no birth or death. Birth and death apply to the outward covering of the spirit soul, the body. Death is compared to the taking off and birth to the putting on of outward garments. Foolish human beings who are grossly absorbed in the culture of avidya, nescience, do not mind this cruel process. Enamored with the beauty of the illusory energy, they undergo the same miseries repeatedly and do not learn any lessons from the laws of nature.

Therefore, the culture of vidya, or transcendental knowledge, is essential for human being. Sense enjoyment in the diseased material condition must be restricted as far as possible. Unrestricted sense of enjoyment in this bodily condition is the path of ignorance and death. The living entities are not without spiritual senses; every living being in his original, spiritual form has all the senses, which are now materially manifested, being covered by the material body and mind. The activities of the material senses are perverted reflections of the activities of the original, spiritual senses. In his diseased condition, the spirit soul engages in material activities under the material covering. Real sense of enjoyment is possible only when the disease of materialism is removed. In our pure spiritual form, free from all material contamination, real enjoyment of the senses is possible. A patient must regain his health before he can truly enjoy pleasure again. Thus the aim of human life should not be to enjoy perverted sense enjoyment but to cure the material disease. Aggravation of the material disease is no sign of knowledge, but a sign of avidya, ignorance. For good health, a person should not increase his temperature from 105 degrees to 107 degrees but should reduce his temperature to the normal 98.6. That should be the aim of human life. The modern trend of material civilization is to increase the temperature of the feverish material condition, which has reached the point of 107 degrees in the form of atomic energy. Meanwhile, the foolish politicians are crying that at any moment the world may go to hell. That is the result of the advancement of material knowledge and the neglect of the most important part of life, the culture of spiritual knowledge. Sri Isopanisad herein warns that we must not follow this dangerous path leading to death. On the contrary, we must develop the culture of spiritual knowledge so that we may become completely free from the cruel hands of death.

This does not mean that all activities for the maintenance of the body should be stopped. There is no question of restricting activities, just as there is no question of wiping out one's temperature altogether when trying to recover

from a disease. "To make the best use of a bad bargain" is the appropriate expression. The culture of spiritual knowledge necessitates the help of the body and mind; therefore maintenance of the body and mind is required if be maintained at 98.6 degrees, and the great sages and saints of India have attempted to do this by a balanced program of spiritual and material knowledge. They never allow the misuse of human intelligence for diseased sense gratification.

Human activities diseased by a tendency toward sense gratification have been regulated in the Vedas under the principles of salvation. This system employs religion, economic development, sense gratification and salvation, but at the present moment people have no interest in religion or salvation. They have only one aim in life—sense gratification—and in order to achieve this end they make plans for economic development. Misguided men think that religion should be maintained because it contributes to economic development, which is required for sense gratification. Thus in order to guarantee further sense gratification after death, in heaven, there is some system of religious observance. But this is not the purpose of religion. The path of religion is actually meant for self-realization, and economic development is required just to maintain the body in a sound, healthy condition. A man should lead a healthy life with a sound mind just to realize vidya, true knowledge, which is the aim of human life. This life is not meant for working like an ass or for culturing avidya for sense gratification.

The path of vidya is most perfectly presented in Srimad-Bhagavatam, which directs a human being to utilize his life to inquire into the Absolute Truth. The Absolute Truth is realized step by step as Brahman, Paramatma and finally Bhagavan, the Personality of Godhead. The Absolute Truth is realized by the broadminded man who has attained knowledge and detachment by following the eighteen principles of the Bhagavad-gita described in the purport to Mantra Ten. The central purpose of these eighteen principles is the attainment of transcendental devotional service to the Personality of Godhead. Therefore all classes of men are encouraged to learn the art of devotional service to the Lord.

The guaranteed path to the aim of vidya is described by

*tasmad ekena manasa
bhagavan satvatam patih
srotavyah kirtitavyas ca
dhyeyah puujyas ca nityada*

"Therefore, with one-pointed attention one should constantly hear about, glorify, remember and worship the Personality of Godhead, who is the protector of the devotees."

Unless religion, economic development and sense gratification aim toward the attainment of devotional service to the Lord, they are all simply different forms of nescience, as Sri Isopanisad indicates in the following mantras.

THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN VRINDARANYAM.

The New Home For the Students
of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and
International School

After having crossed a myriad hurdles, BGIS finally managed to offer the children of BGIS a campus that is truly international. Under the leadership of HG Lila Purushottam Das prabhujii a team of totally committed and highly qualified persons like HG Radhakant Das, HG Madhusudan Mukunda Das, HG Piyush Sehgal and others worked immensely hard to build the beautiful structure of the school at Vrindaranyam.

B BHAKTIVEDANTA Way of Life

Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School (BGIS) was founded by HDG A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, the founder Acharya of ISKCON, in 1975. He envisioned to create men of character and competence who can lead and inspire others. The ICSE / ISC affiliated school ranks 16th best boarding school in India. It provides a

unique experience of education – both spiritual and academic – that can evolve children into becoming the next league of scientists, social activists, entrepreneurs, professionals, Olympic winners etc – but with a compassionate heart to serve the society.

“The old system of gurukula should be revived as the perfect example of a system designed to produce great men, sober and responsible leaders”

G GURUKULA Lifestyle

- A rejuvenating morning program that begins as early as 5 am
- Daily meditation and yoga exercise
- Sloka recitation and lectures about vedic heritage
- Disciplined lifestyle away from mobiles with moderated use of technology
- Chemical free food and milk from our own farm and gaushala
- Extensive cultural programs in traditional arts, music and dance
- Enlivening trips to Holy Places, daily engagement in serving community

I INTERNATIONAL Standards

- India's Largest Gurukula spread over 60 acres, affiliated with ICSE board
- 100% digital Classrooms
- Round the clock medical facilities
- Exceptionally spacious hostel and classrooms
- Sports facilities – basketball, volleyball, football ground among others
- Zero tolerance on corporal punishment

S SCHOOL Led By A Team of Pioneers

- Guided by HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj, Chairman, ISKCON India
- Director, Dr. Lila Purshottam Das, senior professor, IIT Kanpur
- Team of academicians from IITs / Global MBA / best teaching backgrounds
- Selfless leaders acting as selfless teachers
- Ex-professionals from Indian Navy, Goldman Sachs, Ernst & Young, Bell Canada

PRINCIPAL

Dear Reader,

The year 2019 marks the beginning of a new era in the history of BGIS as the school relocated to its new campus known as Vrindaranyam at the start of the new academic session in April 2019. With the blessings of Sri Sri Krishna Balaram, Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundar and Sri Sri Gaur Nitai, the presiding deities of ISKCON Vrindavan, and by the inspiration of Srila Prabhupada and under the guidance of HH Gopal Krishna Maharaj (GBC) and HG Lila Purushottam Prabhu (Director), the school is ready to embark on a new journey taking it to new heights.

As principal of the school, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have been part of this journey including donors, parents, teachers and well-wishers.

I am pleased to inform you that this year BGIS students performed exceptionally well in their Board exams both in ISC and ICSE with highest score being above 97% and many students scoring above 90% and with the better facilities, teachers and educational environment available in the new campus, I am confident that our students will continue to perform well academically, develop as men of character and grow spiritually.

The society is in dire need of citizens with spotless character and competence and this is where an integrated approach to education makes BGIS a unique place for the holistic growth of children.

Once again, I thank you for your kind and generous support and assure you that BGIS will continue to strive hard to bring a positive contribution to the society.

VRINDARANYAM

GET LIFE BY THE STUDENTS.



VRINDARANYAM

BGIS, Vrindaranyam is located in Ajhai, Mathura, nearly 12 KM from Sri Sri Krishna Balaram temple, Vrindavan. Imagine a place in the lap of Mother Nature, full of trees imbued with divinity, free from city traffic and commotion, where one can get fresh air, pure water, organic food and pure milk! This is Vrindaranyam, the new campus of BGIS spread over an area of 60 acres, comprising of an academic building, the hostel building and huge play ground that are up and ready for occupation. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, Vrindaranyam is an ideal place for learning.

FACILITIES AT VRINDARANYAM

The beautiful eco- friendly campus of Vrindaranyam has many special features such as:

- Robotics and Tinkering Labs
- Sky gazing facility
- Digital classrooms
- Organic farming
- Hands-on project based learning facilities
- Well equipped Physics and Chemistry labs
- Solar Power generation

FLOWERS OF VRINDARANYAM

'Sunshine I need' said the young yellow flower
'Pure water' said the red rose
'Lush soil' said the jazzy Jasmine
'Breathing space!' They all cheered
Pretty flowers blossomed in Krishna's garden
Striving hard to be the best
As the gardener gently nurtured

Gave them all his inner core could offer
Polishing them as gems in the coffer
Hoping they would smile one day
Happy at the feet of the Lord we pray
Children of Vrindaranyam are our glory
Each one in future will share their inspiring story

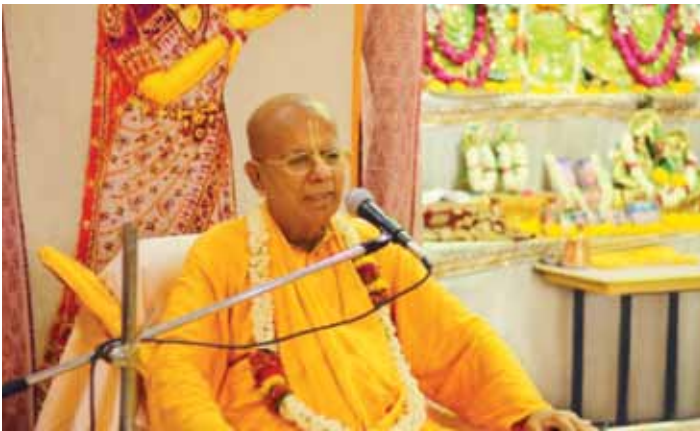
Madhumati Pushkarini Devi Dasi

OUR NEW CAMPUS.



THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN KIRTAN MELA @ VRINDARANYAM- THE NEW BGIS CAMPUS

In the most auspicious month of Kartik, on 12th November 2018, a grand kirtan mela was organized in the 60 acre new campus of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School (BGIS) near Ajhai Village in Vrindavan to mark its holy inauguration. Many disciples of Srila Prabhupada, sanyasis and hundreds of devotees from different parts of the world participated in this wonderful sankirtan festival.



His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami, Chairman of ISKCON (India) and the GBC for the school, inaugurated the program with a Srimad Bhagavatam class on the famous verse spoken by Prahlada Maharaj, "Kaumaraa caret prajno dharman bhagavata niha". In his inaugural speech, he emphasized the importance of giving Krishna consciousness to the children at the early stage of life. He mentioned that the new gurukula campus with its state of the art facilities will aid the students to excel in academics and built exemplary character with a strong foundation of Krishna consciousness. He also expressed his gratitude to the donors and appreciated the efforts of the gurukula team headed by the Director, HG Lila Purusottam Das for the construction of the new campus.

HG Panchagauda Das, temple president of ISKCON Vrindavan started the sankirtan yajna followed by HH Bhakti Anugraha Janardan Swami, HH Vedavyas Priya Maharaj, HG Jasomatindan Das and others.



The main attraction of the day was the kirtan session led by HH Sachinandan Maharaj and HH Loknath Swami Maharaj. They both transported all the devotees to a different realm of existence through their ecstatic sankirtan. The students of gurukula and the guests were dancing and chanting with great enthusiasm as they experienced the sweetness of the Holy Names – golokera prema dhana harinaam sankirtan. The program concluded with Damodarstakam and prasadam.

It was indeed a historic day in the history of BGIS and ISKCON. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada had laid the cornerstone for the old campus of BGIS next to Krishna Balram temple in 1975. The old building of gurukula is in a dilapidated condition now and the location is very crowded and no longer congenial to learning. Hence, in 2012, ISKCON had acquired 60 acres land, about 12 KM from Krishna Balaram temple at a location where Krishna had delivered Aghasura. After years of struggle, finally the gurukula kids got a spacious new campus by the blessings of Srila Prabhupad and Krishna Balram.



THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN

BGIS Students Indeed Make The Best of Both Worlds!

The phenomenal results achieved by BGIS students in ICSE and ISC Board exams gave much joy to students, teachers and parents alike as they were reassured that value based education is not in conflict with purely academic education but in fact a proper combination of the two helps the holistic development of children. BGIS was made proud by the toppers of our school who are not only focused in their academics but also show keen interest in spirituality.

ISC - ICSE - 2019 RESULT SUMMARY

The phenomenal results achieved by BGIS students in ICSE and ISC Board exams gave much joy to students, teachers and parents alike as they were reassured that value based education is not in conflict with purely academic education but in fact a proper combination of the two helps the holistic development of children. BGIS was made proud by the toppers of our school who are not only focused in their academics but also show keen interest in spirituality.

Exam	Position	Name	Percentage
ISC (XII)	1	Akash Lohkna	92.00%
ISC (XII)	2	Harsh Gupta	91.25%
ISC (XII)	3	Kapil Mawai	90.50%
ICSE (X)	1	Mohan Shrivastava	96.60%
ICSE (X)	2	Akshay Parmar	95.40%
ICSE (X)	3	Surendra Lohkna	92.60%
ICSE (X)	3	Chaitanya Shree	92.60%
ICSE (X)	4	Rakshit Tayal	91.60%



HIGHLIGHTS:

- * 4 Students (Mohan, Surendra, Rakshit, Priyansh) have scored 100 out of 100 in Computer Applications (ICSE).
- * All students have scored above 94 out of 100 in Computer Application (ICSE)
- * Mohan Shrivastava scored 99 out of 100 in Hindi (ICSE)
- * Akshay Parmar scored 99 out of 100 in Sanskrit (ICSE)
- * Chaitanya and Trishant scored 99 out of 100 in Physical Education (ICSE)
- * Harsh Gupta scored 99 out of 100 in Physics (ISC)



It is a matter of great pride for BGIS that Mrs. Sonu Gupta ji, who has taught thousands of Chartered Accountants and has authored 32 books on accountancy and insurance, has joined BGIS as the head of the commerce department. With her vast experience and expertise, she is determined to take commerce department to newer heights. Along with regular commerce syllabus, she will orient and prepare the students from class 9 to 12 for professional courses like CA, CS. Law and Business Management.

Competitive Exam Selections

S. Gautameshwar qualified for IIT-JEE (Advanced) 2018 and NEST-2018 and he is pursuing graduation from National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar.

Govind Das qualified for IIT-JEE (Main) 2018 and he is pursuing graduation from Harcourt Butler Technological Institute (HBTI), Kanpur.

SCHOOL EVENTS

BGIS Wins Inter-School Debate Competition

BGIS participated in an inter-school debate competition organized by Birla school, called the 'Freedom Cup 2018'. The event was conducted at two levels: Junior (grades 9 and 10) and Senior (grades 11 and 12). There were 9 schools that participated in the event including Rajiv International, Kanha Makhan, Sacred Heart, Mathura Army school etc.

The topics of the debate for the junior level were: 'Media should not be censored' and the topic at the senior level was 'Social Media are just sophisticated means of stalking people'.

Mohan Srivastava and Chaitanya Shree of grade 10 participated at the junior level and Harsh Gupta and Kapil Mawai participated at the senior level.



BGIS won the cup with a tie with Kanha Makhan School at the senior level. Our junior participants were also excellent and got huge applause in the rebuttal round.

BGIS Wins Bhagavad Gita Recitation Event In Dehradun

Bhagavad Gita Recitation Event was organized by Chinmaya Mission in Dehradun on 18-19 August 2018. The recitation event was based on chapter-18 of Bhagavad Gita. Four of our students secured prizes where hundreds of students participated from many well-known schools. Everyone was impressed by the performance of our students.

Kautilya	(Grade-4) : First Prize in Group B
Gopal Rao	(Grade-4) : Third Prize in Group B
Kuwar K Kaushik	(Grade-7) : Third Prize in Group C
Sitananda Yadav	(Grade-7) : Third Prize in Group D

The students were well prepared by our teachers Kavita Mataji & Kalpana Mataji.



BGIS Wins Gold Medal In Karate Championship In Meerut

Dhruva Nimalan, a student of Grade-7 won Gold Medal in Karate Championship held in Meerut in August-2018.

THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN Annual Sports Day-2018

The students always look forward to the annual sports day with great eagerness and excitement. The excitement was further magnified this year as the first sports day in the new campus was organized on December 01, 2018.

Students are divided into four groups namely Vrindavan, Govardhan, Nandgaon & Barsana.



The students participated and competed in different games like volleyball, football, kho-kho, kabaddi and athletic sports like sprinting, discus throw, high jump, and long jump. The energy and spirit of the students were soaring, they really enjoyed the vast sports ground of the new campus that encouraged the teachers to participate in simple games too. The awarding ceremony was held to conclude the event. Winners were given prizes and two students from 12th grade received the annual "Best Outgoing Student" award.

The final day programme was concluded with Kirtan, tug of war among four teams and final prize distribution ceremony. HG Trikalajna Das, Vice-President of Krishna Balram temple, ISKCON Vrindavan handed over the prizes to the winners of various sports events. Some of the boys' won more than 5 medals.

The whole activity was very beneficial to the students; it gives them a hands-on approach to education and an opportunity to practically apply their skills. It accentuates learning activities that are long-term, student-centered, and integrated with real-world concerns and practices.



THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN Eminent Guests @ BGIS

HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Visits Vrindaranyam

On 1st May 2019, HH Gopal Krishna Goswami blessed the new campus by his presence. As always, Maharaja had an interactive session with students inquiring from them as to how they were finding the new campus. He also asked the boys who had been studying in our school for many years to share their views about the new campus in comparison to the old one. Maharaja has a unique way of making students comfortable and they began sharing all they liked in the new campus and what they were missing from the previous one. Amongst other things, students mostly miss proximity to the beautiful Krishna Balaram temple in Vrindavan where they would go for darshan every morning and evening, participate in the vibrant kirtans and eat prasadam in the temple bakery! The newly admitted students also showed excitement in sharing their experiences at BGIS. Maharaja later met the teachers and his humble self thanked all of them for their service in BGIS. We all felt very fortunate to have the privilege of serving in Srila Prabhupada's Gurukula.



GBC & CHAIRMAN OF ISKCON, INDIA.

HH Bhaktivijnana Goswami Visits Vrindaranyam

The new session in the month of April began on a very auspicious note with HH Bhaktivijnana Goswami maharaja giving a very insightful class to teachers on 'The Art of Raising Children'. Some of the salient points from his class were :

- (1) Apart from the astrological influences over a child there are other significant influences such as association and samskaras.
- (2) Samskaras are essentially the impressions that are formed on a child during his early years. Samskaras are in fact the most crucial factor in the overall development of a child.
- (3) Parents and teachers are primarily responsible for giving positive spiritual impressions to a child in their formative years.
- (4) Disciplining children is effective when we develop good relationship with them.
- (5) As teachers we play a very important role in building the self esteem of children through the right combination of love and discipline.



GBC, PREACHING IN RUSSIA FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

THE YEAR THAT HAS BEEN Eminent Guests @ BGIS



Shri Shrikant Sharma, Honourable Cabinet Minister, Uttar Pradesh



HG Anuttama Prabhu, GBC USA



HG Gauranga Das, ISKCON Chowpaty



HH Loknath Maharaj, GBC



Shri Bablu Kumar, SSP Mathura



Dilip Modi, CMD Spice Telecom, with his core team

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Can We Build A Conscious Machine?

Laxmidhar Behera

*Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur*

An Example from History

We have heard about Bhagavata Sankhya – a scientific explanation of basic building blocks of this creation as taught by Lord Kapila to his mother Devahuti. Devahuti the famous daughter of Swayambhuva Manu married to Kardama who has also achieved mystic perfection by virtue of his strong practice of devotional service at the lotus feet of Lord Krishna. He was served sincerely by his wife in his daily performance of fire sacrifices and other vedic rituals. Seeking to please his beloved wife, the sage Kardama exercised his yogic power and instantly produced an aerial mansion that could travel at his will. It was a wonderful structure, bedecked with all sorts of jewels, adorned with pillars of precious stones, and capable of yielding whatever one desired. It was equipped with every form of furniture and wealth, which gradually increased in the course of time. Among other descriptions of this aerial mansion, here is one that will surely catch our attention:

Here and there in that palace were multitudes of live swans and pigeons, as well as artificial swans and pigeons so life like that the real swans rose above them again and again, thinking them live birds like themselves. Thus the palace vibrated with the sounds of these birds.

Obviously these artificial swans are examples of conscious machines that we are trying to build. But the consciousness in such machines certainly does not refer to the absolute consciousness that Lord Krishna talks of in Bhagavad Gita. Let's consider the naïve consciousness. Conscious we are, as we are aware of our body, mind and identities. We need to distinguish between a living body and dead body. Let's revisit the following two verses from Bhagavad Gita in Chapter 13:

The five great elements, false ego, intelligence, the unmanifested, the ten senses and the mind, the five sense objects, desire, hatred, happiness, distress, the aggregate, the life symptoms, and convictions – all these are considered, in summary, to be the field of activities and its interactions. BG 13:6-7

Here it is very clear that even living symptoms and convictions are not the part of pure consciousness. In scientific community, a distinction between a machine and a human collapses if behaviorally there is no distinction between the two. For example please look at the set up in my lab: a robot is given a list of objects to pick from a rack. Using a mounting camera, the robot sees every box of rack, locates the desired object and picks. It is like you go to a shop and give the shopkeeper a list of items you need. The shopkeeper looks at various racks and picks the desired item. In this case both the robot and the human being are behaviorally identical in terms of picking objects but are they same? A human can claim that he is self aware, but the machine can not claim so. Human consciousness is subject to hunger, fear, sleep and sexual urges while a machine is inert in these regard. Creativity and self-replication are norms in humans while current machines empowered by advanced AI tools are simply procedural and computationally driven.



There is a buzzing among AI researchers in regard to building a conscious machine. But do we understand what is consciousness? In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna talks about consciousness as that which is immutable, immovable, indestructible, un-burnt, un-cut, un-wet and always existing (eternal) – the qualities that are not observable in physical realm. When situated in consciousness, one becomes free from ignorance – always situated in knowledge and transcendental joy. Moreover consciousness can n be created and destroyed. This is an experience that is beyond our current experience of mundane space and time. What kind of conscious machine can we build then?



A Thought Experiment

As shown in the first figure, the robot Alice lives in your house and hears your family members. She picks up vocabulary slowly and steadily, and starts speaking in a broken language. In due course of time, she becomes expert in your language and learns to write poetry. Her creative writing makes her to receive a Nobel prize in literature. A deep introspection on this thought experiment will let us know about the challenges to build such conscious machines that are self aware, have self-identity and are creative. How can a machine be naturally creative? I will argue based on Bhagavata Sankhya given in Srimad Bhagavatam in 3rd Canto that we need to evolve the idea of semantic space.

Semantic Space –The Basic Building Block of this Universe

We all exist in some space. The solar system is operating in some space. Various information such as sound, touch, form, taste and smell exist in different spaces. What is the space?

A simple definition is as follow: Space is that which gives distinct identity to every object. Let's do a thought experiment. Let's close our eyes and imagine that all forms of space are withdrawn. As space is being withdrawn, we will experience that all distinctions among different life forms are collapsing, my body has collapsed, my house is no more, my city is no more, my country is no more, the world is no more, the solar system is no more, and the universe is no more. As we continue our thought process, the language will collapse as words will cease to exist. Our thought content which is dependent on the existence of this material space will also cease to exist. Our notion of I and mine (false consciousness) will finally cease to exist. As we continue our thought process – we enter into complete darkness where we may have a faint experience of our own existence. In that existence I feel like drowning in the ocean of ignorance. Who am I? Where am I? What is my locus?

In Bhagavad Gita we learn about eight different categories of semantic spaces that constitute this phenomenal space – the world of experience. Earth is the space of smell, water is the space of taste, fire is the space of form, air is the space of touch and ether is the space of sound. Similarly the mind is the space of emotions and desires. Intelligence is the space of concepts and abstractions. The last element is false ego which is the space of false identities. The mutual interactions among

these eight spaces create my identity and my world. But all these manifestations are illusory as the spirit self is beyond this illusory experience. What is the connection of the spirit self with the illusory self? How does an object from divine (conscious) space interact with the illusory self that is made of material space?

When I pinch you at your specific part of your body, you feel the pain at that very spot? You do not feel that pain in your brain. Why?

Bg 2.17 – That which pervades the entire body you should know to be indestructible. No one is able to destroy that imperishable soul.

However this indestructible consciousness is not subject to pain. Why do you then experience pain? This is a great mystery that can be unraveled if we attempt to build a conscious machine. Every activity we do in this world must be firmly directed towards understanding the self.

I am conscious of my body because from time immemorial I am associating with that which I am NOT. This gives rise to my false identification. At the level of false ego, material space and conscious space are highly subjective although false consciousness is mere shadow of the pure consciousness. This false consciousness is born out of modes of material nature. This is created according to my conditioned state. According to vedic literature I am made to wear many artificially conscious dresses among 8.4 million species. These dresses are created and hence these bodily consciousness are subjected to birth and death. Can we create such illusory dress?

How Can We Build Such a Conscious Machine?

A person who is capable of distinguishing pure self and illusory self can only build such a machine. Mostly soul is dormant – it is not wakeful. Although human, we mostly behave like a robot. When by proper divine practice, the soul is awakened, he sees both conscious and illusory space. The normal practice of divinity in this age is to chant the holy name of the Lord:

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Current machines are mostly developed in mode of ignorance and have caused great harm to the natural environment. The proposed conscious machine can only be built in mode of goodness. Such machines will be symbiotically sensitive to all biological species and will maintain the environment. But the better motivation is that the process helps to search our real and absolute nature.

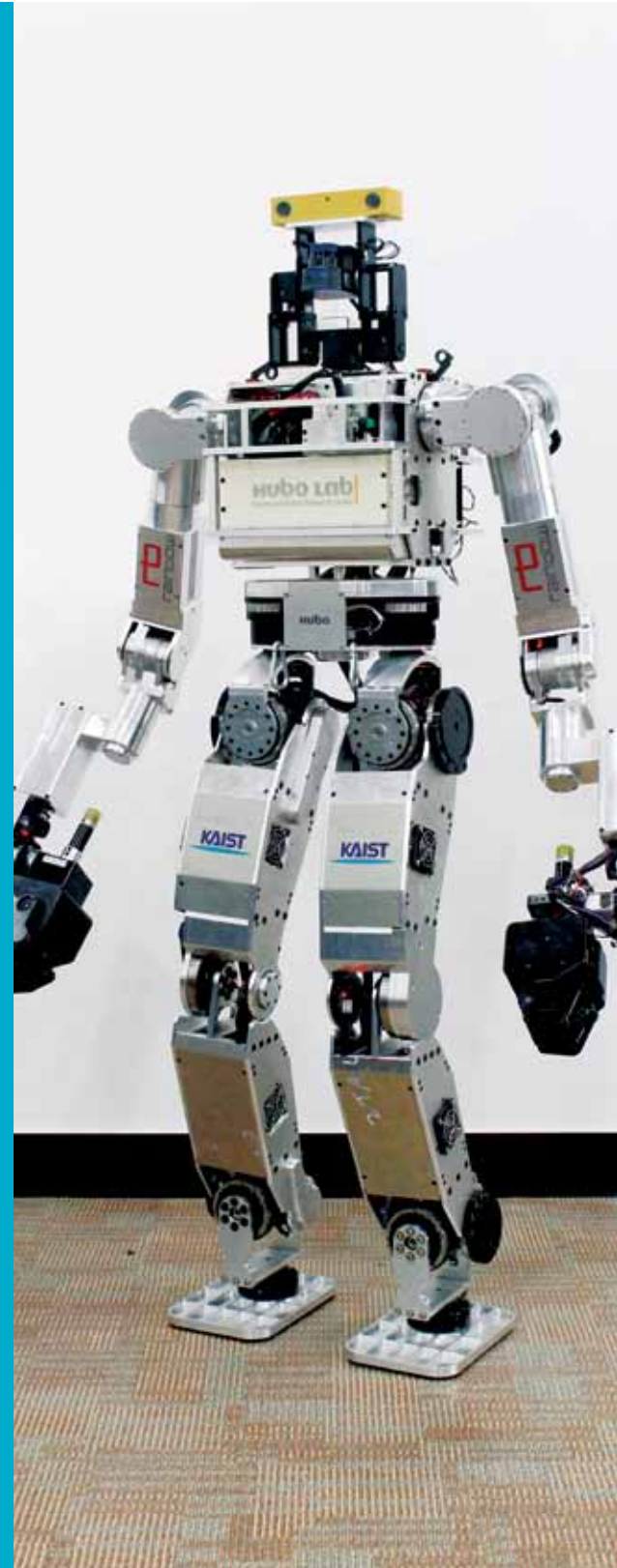
Conclusion

Just like if I stand near the river bank, I see my reflection in the water. Similarly, when the soul accepts a body, its attributes in the material space, in terms of false consciousness, intellect, mind and body, are mere reflections, and are thus temporary. Thus, when I am pinched in my body I feel the pain, i.e., my body and consciousness are simultaneously one and different. This is the state of body consciousness.

The fact that body consciousness is simply a reflection of the conscious space, implies that all attributes of body consciousness must be there in the pure conscious space in pure state. Thus, attributes of the material space in terms of experiences such as sound, touch, form, taste and smell must be there in the conscious plane in terms of divine space and time. We have heard of this space from Bhagavad Gita:

Bg 15.6 — That supreme abode of Mine is not illumined by the sun or moon, nor by fire or electricity. Those who reach it never return to this material world.

In Brahma-samhita, it is said Krishna, who is also known as Govinda, is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal blissful spiritual body. He is the origin of all. He has no other origin and He is the prime cause of all causes. Obviously, this conscious space has the same qualities as that of Krishna, and is non-different from Him. This conscious space is full of rich varieties beyond any of our imaginations. Divine sound, divine touch, divine forms, divine taste and divine smell pervades this space – all of them have their source in Krishna. Every object in this space is conscious. Every object has a distinct form in terms of its relation with Krishna. Thus it is time for us to devise ways to scientifically demonstrate a semantic space that is self-aware and its structure emerges based on association.



WHAT IS EXPERIENCE?

(SURANANDA DAS)

I would put the old saying 'Experience is the best teacher' as an answer to this question. In fact, in the cosmos, the experience is the oldest teacher from whom every living being including humans and other lower animals, has learnt about the self (body, mind, intellect, etc.) and the world outside. Much of what we know and understand, if scrutinizingly looked into, has been learnt rather through experience than the formal education in school, college, and university classrooms. In fact, the experiences or the results of experience are compiled and formed into modules for formal education. So to say, 'experience' comes first and formal education comes later. This experience is the primeval cause of education. Therefore, it is proved that experience is the best teacher.

'To know' and 'to understand' is intrinsic principle within the cognizant; and experience is the inevitable medium of knowledge and understanding. This principle functions in a natural and spontaneous method. In the method, experience involves 'the experiencer' and 'the objects' of the experienced. The experiencer interacts or relates the objects or in other words, indulges into actions which are primarily prompted by the mind (feelings) and executed through senses and it gives rise to experience, generally into the dualistic manner, viz. happiness or morose, triumph or defeat, satisfaction or dissatisfaction, etc. It can be broadly categorized as 'positive experience' and 'negative experience'. Positive experience and negative experience lies within the realm of materialism, wherein the actions and results are relative. For that reason, such experience is called a phenomenal experience.

In ordinary living, the general populace doesn't even realize how its members 'know' about themselves and the things around them. For such normal beings, life doesn't go beyond that thin line bordering – 'I eat', 'I sleep', 'I mate' and 'I defend'. But for a sage or a philosopher, he goes far beyond this borderline. He even starts thinking 'why do I think?', 'how I do think?', 'how do I experience?', 'what is the purpose?', etc. Let's see what a philosopher has to deal with all about 'what is an experience?'

For a philosopher realizes everything in the realm of materialism is futile yet from within a hankering for satisfaction or the fulfillment, without being interrupted is still yearning. His intelligent sense starts enquiring – what is the extent – what is the limit – what is there out beyond the boundary of the materialism? His sense is quite uncertain about the existence of the materialism. It is quite grey, not black and white; and no tangibility is to be seen. Nonetheless, in his deep contemplation, a philosopher is quite certain that a 'thinking ghost' within, claiming to be – a person "I" – exists undoubtedly or survives the temporariness of this world. That's how a philosopher or a sage experiences. The outcome of one of such experiences is the famous Latin phrase "Cogito ergo sum" which translates into English as "I think, therefore, I am". This proposition was voiced from the mouth-pen of the 17th-century French mathematician, René Descartes who turned out to be the Father of Modern Philosophy. From this proposition, Descartes even hypothetically/logically drew the conclusion that "... therefore, God exists". Such experience entails a higher level of experience, which is beyond the experience of dualistic nature. Such experience is called philosophically as a noumenal experience, or it may be called a Transcendental experience.

In the Indian Philosophical system of Epistemology, there are four distinct fountains of correct knowledge. These are:

- i) Direct experience or perception (Pratyaksa),
- ii) Inference (Anumana),
- iii) Comparison (Upamana),
- iv) Testimony (Sabda).

Direct experience or perception is classified into two: ordinary (laukika) and extraordinary (alaukika). Ordinary perception is the knowledge is derived from the contacts of senses with the objects of the world through the faculties of hearing, touch, sight, taste, and smell. Extraordinary perception is the knowledge conveyed to the senses through unusual modes –not directly present to the senses – but through the mind that perceives the quality of the soul like desire, pleasure and pain. Extraordinary (alaukika) perception is of three kinds: i) perception of classes (samanyalaksana), ii) perception based on association (jnana laksana) and iii) intuitive perception (yogaja).

The third kind of extraordinary perception – intuitive perception (yogaja) is the knowledge born of yoga practices. One attains such knowledge after having perfectly cleansed his mind through yoga practices and finally they achieve spiritual perfection. In that stage, he is known as Yuktayogins.

To conclude, the knowledge derived from phenomenal experience known as empirical knowledge: experience through physical (material) senses; and transcendental knowledge derived from noumenal experience: the experience through purified senses (divine eyes or the third eye). So experience is drawing the attention of our life activities. It has become a keynote idea of how one can transfer the self from the plane of phenomenal experience to that of the noumenal experience in which the self realizes the things in themselves.

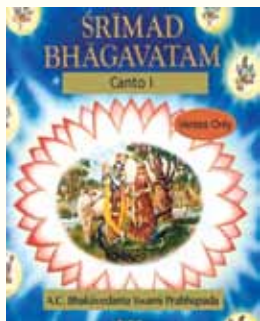


SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM

Learning English Through Srimad Bhagavatam by

Madhumati Pushkarini Devi Dasi

"Gurukula is our most important project. If the children are given a Krishna conscious education from early childhood then there is a great hope for the future of the world." Srila Prabhupada in a letter to Dayananda, Nandarani – Calcutta 27 January 1973.



Introducing Krishna conscious education in a school that is open to students of all backgrounds, in a school where the competitive mentality is very prevalent among parents can be quite challenging. But the school is unique since it is established by Srila Prabhupada and also because it is in the holy dhama of Sri Vrindavana. Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School, Vrindavan, decided to introduce Srimad Bhagavatam as the core English textbook for middle school students. However, without a proper guide book to teach young children in a school set up, it seemed a farfetched idea to do so. It indeed came as a huge blessing when Aruddha Mataji, who is a pioneer of homeschooling children of devotees using Srimad Bhagavatam as their main course book, inspired parents around the world to create resources on every chapter of the Bhagavatam and compiled it into one comprehensive book – Srimad Bhagavatam- A Comprehensive Guide for Young Readers.

Based on this book we decided to come up with a systematic course for English subject for grades 6, 7 and 8. The idea was to integrate Shastra and English as one subject and develop clear instructional objectives, lesson plans, and procedures for the same.

Initially, there were many apprehensions on whether students of middle school could assimilate the deep philosophical statements of Srimad Bhagavatam and if the words and concepts in the text would be rather difficult for them. With the expert guidance of Aruddha Mataji, the teachers began to develop more confidence and accept that one need not have mastered the science of Bhagavatam in order to teach kids from it.

Titled 'Integrated Shastra English Program', we framed the objectives of our course as follows:

1. To teach the skills of the English language to middle school through the content of Srimad Bhagavatam.
2. To plan every class with clear instructional objectives such that young readers develop an interest in the content of Srimad Bhagavatam.
3. To use various teaching methods like discussion, demonstration, debate, questioning, art and drama to teach the subject.
4. To develop language skills among students through organizing different events such as elocution, debate, essay writing, composing poetry and group discussions.

We had intense preparation in the form of demo classes given by English teachers to other teachers before the new session began. We also began writing clearly our lesson plans with detailed instructional objectives for every single class. Using many of the activities outlined in the Guide Book and preparing our own activities, we began a very rewarding journey of teaching Srimad Bhagavatam to young kids of Gurukula.

The journey so far has been a unique experience for both- students and teachers. Sanjukta Mataji, English teacher for grade VI shares: "I feel blessed and excited to be teaching Srimad Bhagavatam for middle school students. The way the students participate and reciprocate gives me a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment."

Our fear that young students may find difficulty in understanding or appreciating Srimad Bhagavatam was soon put to rest when students started participating in all discussions and enthusiastically participating in all activities. As Shyamlatamataji, English teacher for grade 7th says, "Amid the various things that have changed this year, one is that our children have started studying Srimad Bhagavatam. Earlier I was little apprehensive about myself teaching it and the students understanding this lofty literature. But today after teaching for a few months I feel that I have learnt a lot as a teacher. Similarly, my students have improved in various aspects. It is for the first time that they have taken any subject so seriously. It's a process of mutual growth and improvement where we help each other. The classroom resembles a beautiful place like Naimisharanya where we discuss Srimad Bhagavatam every day."



We conducted many events such as elocution, poetry writing and recitation based on Srimad Bhagavatam. Students are getting exposure to both; Srimad Bhagavatam, the mature ripened fruit of Vedic literature as well as skills of the English language. The discussion on the wide variety of topics that Srimad Bhagavatam contains is sometimes overwhelming for teachers and they have to make extra effort to stop discussions and stick to their lesson plans and instructional objectives. As Parvesh Prabhuji, English teacher for grade VII talking about the enthusiasm he sees among his students shares: It gives me a sense of accomplishment when I see my students understand and appreciate what they learned from Srimad Bhagavatam, clapping their hands whenever they find proofs that they find amazing, volunteering to join in the discussion and showing a lot of enthusiasm. It is really a wonderful feeling when they appreciate what I have taught them, not only academically but also what they learned from Srimad Bhagavatam about life in general."

Students also share similar experiences about their new textbook as can be seen in the collage.



So how exactly do our teachers teach this great philosophy to our little children?

Unless every lesson is well planned and tailored at their level, children may lose interest in studying or may find it irrelevant. Hence teachers write down the instructional objectives for every lesson along with the main procedure including the ice- breaker for each class. Instructional objectives for the introductory lesson are presented here:

LESSON 1

SUBJECT : Introducing Srimad Bhagavatam as their English course book

At the end of this lesson, students will know the name of their textbook, the main characters required to introduce the plot of Srimad Bhagavatam and the chain of events that lead to Srimad Bhagavatam being spoken.



Day 1

Instructional objectives: By the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. List the main characters and identify their roles in terms of the author, primary speaker, primary listener, secondary speaker and secondary listener.
2. Sequentially recall the plot of how Srimad Bhagavatam came to be spoken to King Parikshit.
Above objectives were achieved mainly through narration, board work and role play.

Day 2

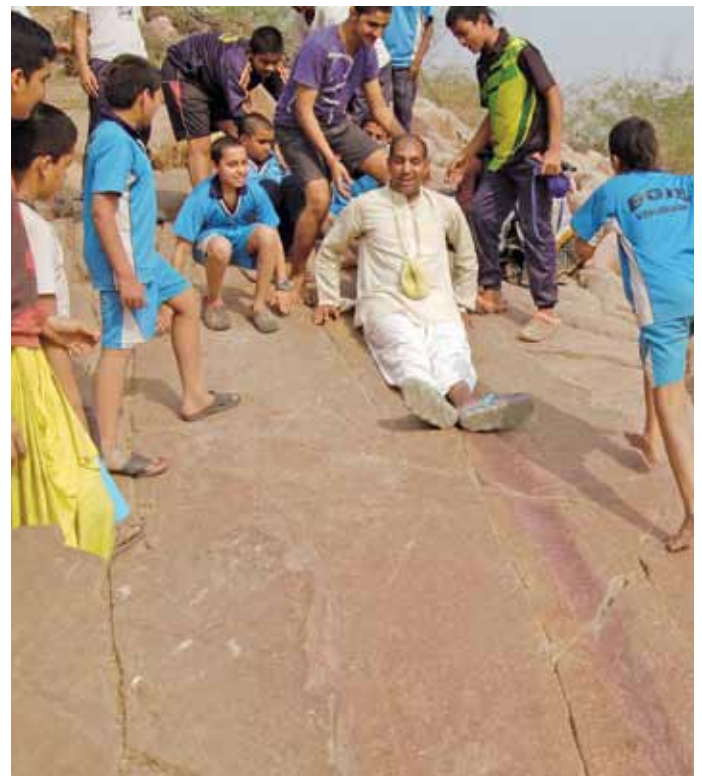
Instructional objectives: By the end of this class students will be able to

1. Analyze how Krishna uses devotees to teach all of us:
The significant role of King Parikshit.
2. Justify their goals of reading Srimad Bhagavatam
3. Compose a prayer to Srimad Bhagavatam.

The first objective was achieved through a planned humorous demonstration by the teacher with a student who normally followed classroom rules. The teacher asked the student to walk into the class without permission (thus breaking one rule). The moment the student did that, the teacher corrected him with strong words and the entire class became attentive to what the teacher was saying! Other objectives were achieved through discussion followed by writing.

After the introduction to their course book, students have begun reading the translations of Canto 1, to begin with. They mark difficult words, study various nuances of grammar, and then through different methods such as discussions, role plays, songs, chart works, and explicit instructions, students learn different concepts from translations with the help of the Guide Book.

Srila Prabhupada mentions one of the seven purposes of establishing ISKCON as 'To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.



This systematic propagation can happen in a school set up where students come for the purpose of learning and acquiring knowledge. With the help of expert guidance and proper planning, it is possible to generate interest and develop language skills among young students using the text of Srimad Bhagavatam. Indeed it is a privilege to be a part of this school either as a teacher or as a student to be able to study Srila Prabhupada's books in a systematic manner.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

COMPASSION - A QUALITY THAT IS MISSING AMONG US

(PURUSHOTTAM GUPTA, GD 8TH)

Understanding another person's problem and desiring to help him without any ulterior motive means that we are showing compassion towards him. A son takes care of his mother when his mother is sick, that means he is showing compassion towards his mother. In the present time, it is hard to find people who show compassion towards anyone. If anyone gives money to a beggar, he gives not mostly out of compassion but with pride, to show everyone that he is rich and also merciful. Nowadays, people do not keep a pot of water or seeds, so that birds and insects can drink or eat. Some people do like this but not everyone.

There is a story about a disciple and his guru. One day a disciple went to his guru and asked: "Do people show compassion towards everyone?" Guru smiled and took him to the window and showed that a beggar was begging for money, and so many people were passing by but no one cared to give him anything. Then, a boy came to him and gave a flower that he had. Guru explained the disciple that no one shows compassion towards anyone.

People do not stop using poly bags even though they know that cows or other animals may eat and even die. They are not compassionate towards animals. Without compassion, human beings will become very self-centered and hard-hearted. Compassion is a quality which is indeed missing among us. It can be cultivated however by following simple principles of devotional service such as chanting, eating prasadam and worshipping the Supreme Lord with gratitude.

HAS TECHNOLOGY INDEED MADE MAN'S LIFE COMFORTABLE?

(AKSHAY PARMAR, GD 10TH)

I disagree with the statement that science and technology have made man's life comfortable. Srila Prabhupada once said, "If we adopt the village lifestyle of our ancestors, we will never become sick and depressed." Due to advancement in technology, it seems like mankind has become destroyed.

Even though technology seems to have made life comfortable, it has still harmed mankind in many ways. Before, our ancestors lived in villages without cars, mobiles, televisions, air conditioners, etc. They were happy and always healthy. For example, after television was invented, people became excited to have a personal television set at home. People watch television continuously without keeping any thoughts for time and responsibilities. Children watch television and get fully absorbed in it. Their eyes become damaged and their health reduces. The children of today have become inactive. Even in the recent past when my parents were young, children would play outdoor games and would be active, healthy and strong.

After cars were invented, the demand for cars increased day by day. Cars have become a big burden for the earth. So much fuel is used by cars, which is polluting the earth on a large scale. The atmosphere is full of harmful gases, which makes it hard to breathe. In villages, people would travel by bullock carts, horse carts, and boats. Such means of transportation keep the atmosphere clean.

Day by day scientists invent new things of plastic, metal, etc. whose demand grows day by day. Industries and factories release harmful gases into the atmosphere making it harmful. Many hazardous chemicals are wasted into water reservoirs making the water unsuitable to drink. The nuclear power plants exploit nuclear waves which severely harm the human brain. After smartphones were invented, children became totally absorbed in the internet, social networking sites, etc. wasting their day uselessly. In villages, children study hard and play outdoors which develops their health and body.

In my opinion, advancement in technology has not just made man's life uncomfortable, but it has also harmed mankind and nature. We can still live a simple life just like our ancestors and make more endeavors for spiritual advancement than technological advancement.

HARE KRISHNA

BEING TOLERANT

(KUSH, GD 9TH)

Tolerance is a quality,
Enduring pain is its great ability.
A person applying it with patience,
Can undergo problems from a long distance.

Instead of just 'going' through life,
By being tolerant one can 'grow' through life. Humidity,
patience, and simplification are its angles, Flora and fauna
are its best examples.

The past has witnessed many great personalities, Who by
being tolerant attained many great victories? Tolerance is
a brilliant gem,
That guides people to their goal and aim.

It is a mobile quality that attracts others,
It makes a man fortunate and famous.
It minimizes the upcoming pressures,
and maximizes sweet and loving gestures.
A Roman king galloped with his horse in the forest,
With the intention to just and to be called as the greatest.
While riding he fell down by a stone suddenly,

Then came before him an old woman,
Who asked for forgiveness before the Roman.
A mango hanging on a tree she wanted to hit at,
But unfortunately, the king got hit by that.

"There is no one tolerant than a tree," he thought,
Even after supplying tasty fruits the tree is cut.
The kings should be as tolerant as the tree,

Thinking like this, a hundred coins he gave to her for
humility.

In every step of life tolerance plays an important part,
Cures damaged events and combine those who fell
apart.
Many got benefitted after using it in their lives,
It strengthened them, and now, they can't be cut even
by knives.

Nowadays zero tolerance people possess,
That's why there are so many wars and distress,
They weren't tolerant so they had to face this mess,
We can win anything by the tolerance that you just
guess.

Being tolerant makes one comfortable,
While anger makes one miserable.
Anger and arrogance hurt others,
But tolerance wins and touches the heart of others.

Tolerance can change hearts,
It can stop fights and wars,
One can take advantage of that,
And attain anything where one aims at.

Therefore tolerance is such a thing that,
One should immediately apply,
It will make one successful and wise
And never should one deny.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WHO KNOWS.. WHAT'S TOMORROW?

(PRAHLAD NIMALAN, GD 9TH)

One evening my father read aloud "an Ethiopian airplane crashed on 10th March 2019 killing more than 150 people from more than twelve countries including an Indian UN official. It is the most deadly Ethiopian airplane crash" What a tragedy! Everything got over within no time. Many of them were flying with plans of work while others with vacations plans, but all that planning and excitement finished just in a matter of seconds. Life is unpredictable; anything can happen at any time. Everything that we have achieved, accumulated, gained, is over forever. Thus, we need to focus on the real purpose of life. Our life should be utilised in the perfect way in the time we have.

People from countries around the world came here in this plane with different plans and to different destinations but are suddenly blown up within seconds. Why! You might think why so many innocent people had to die! Is there no justice in this world? Does god not care about some of the people? The answer is that god thinks equally for everyone. Suppose tomorrow you get to know that there was a man behind the crash. He made a glitch in the engine, causing the plane to crash. What would you say? Most of you would say "such a ruthless man! He should be given the hardest of punishments!" there, you said it yourself. This is where the law of god comes into action 'THE REACTION OF KARMA'.

The karmic reactions are like the third law of sir Isaac Newton's law of motions which states 'every action has an equal and opposite reaction'. In the past life or in the present life all of them were involved in a situation of taking others lives or being the cause of it. They might have done something in the past and are getting it back now. Still as we are tiny fractions in the service of Shri Krishna we should always be compassionate to every soul in this universe, in which ever body they may be. Krishna's plans are perfect and are like pieces of puzzle which fall into place at that the right time and at the right place. All these people were spirit souls that were just diverted to the wrong path. Our bodies may be hurt and may bleed but the soul is never hurt so much so that it is not even scratched. As it is said in the second chapter twenty third verse-:

*Nainam chindanti shastrani nainam dahati
pavakah na cheydyam kledayanty apo na
shoshayati marutah*

Which means that the soul cannot be cut into pieces by any weapon nor can it be burned by fire nor can it be moistened by water and neither can it be withered by wind. When the plane blew up there was a lot of fire and sharp metal pieces flying around, but the souls that had come out from their bodies were not harmed even by the inch. This means that the soul is eternal ever existing and primeval. Then why should we lament on a person who is not dead? First let us understand why death is caused. In all our past births we have accumulated fruitful activities, and when these activities are exhausted our body dies, but again the soul never dies. The soul passes from boy hood to youth to old age. The soul similarly passes into another body at death, we may pass from all these stages but a sober person is not affected by such changes.

Every one of us has to die one day or another. Just the times would be different. Anyone who is walking now could be lifeless tomorrow. No one knows what could happen tomorrow. We are just like puppets in the hand of Krishna and we have to dance to his tunes whether we like it or not because Krishna does everything good for us. Just like a person affected with jaundice has to be given sweets and sweetened things to get cured from his disease. At that time no one cares whether he likes it or not because we all know, that is good for him. We should just be patient and always remember the lord and never forget Him, for that is the only way to attain perfection.

Hare Krishna!

By – Prahlad Nimalan (Vrindavan)

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT



TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME – JULY 2018

The role of a teacher in the 21st century is changing rapidly. Teaching is no longer limited to imparting information to students as they have access to all information at the click of a button. The role of a teacher is more like a facilitator who makes learning an interesting experience for a student. Project based hands on learning is one of the most effective techniques for imparting education.

The best way to train teachers in the project based learning method, is to engage them in project work. With this objective in mind, a one week teacher training camp was organized at the new campus of BGIS in the first week of July 2018 under the guidance of our Director, HG Lila Purushottam Prabhu. HG Deena Bandhu prabhu came one day to address the staff. He shared his experience of staying & preaching in Vrindavan.

All the teachers stayed at the new campus. The day began with spiritually nourishing morning program- Mangal Arti, Japa, Guru Puja and Srimad Bhagavatam class. The teachers were also engaged in various community services like plantation trees, bathing cows, plucking moong dal beans etc. It was an ideal time for plantation as monsoon had just set in. Plantation of trees was the most exciting activity. The Director Sir himself led by example and took a group of teacher to various parts of the huge campus where teachers enjoyed making pits and planting trees. The teachers were drenched in dirt but it was not ordinary dirt! It was Vraj raj- a treasure aspired by the demigods. It was a very satisfying experience to plant small saplings that would grow one day to big trees.

The teachers were divided into six groups with for the project work: low cost housing, organic farming, water filter, waste management, bio-gas plant and robotics. On the last day of the camp, each group made a presentation to the Director. He appreciated the sincere efforts and creativity of the teachers. The programme was concluded with a skit by the staff on a modernized version of Bramhana & cobbler with the message that one should have an inconceivable faith on the Lord to understand Him. This lesson is taught by nature to us in so many ways as cobbler apparently a low born & illiterate have demonstrated unflinching faith on the Lord. He urged them to continue working on these projects and engage students in project based learning.

Also, we would like to extend our sincere esteems to Chitrakar Das Prabhu and his staff in kitchen for providing prasadam on time; and Sanjay Prabhu and Rasshuka Das Prabhu for their humble service attitude in serving breakfast, lunch & dinner prasadam from the Day 1 till the end.

PORTABLE BIOGAS PLANT

Team Members

Jayant Kumar Mohanta | Nawadwipa Das | Rupanuga Das

Sanjay Rathore | Chandra Shekhar Pandey | Sundari Shyama Devi Dasi | Shruti Dasi

Energy plays a significant role in all our lives. We use energy for cooking, lighting, drying and warming. Currently, the major source of energy is fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. These are non-renewable and pollute the environment as their extraction involve cutting of trees and burning of wood which leads to air pollution. This has led to a search for other sources of energy such as wind, solar, and biogas. Of all these sources biogas has been found to be the most suitable for domestic use due to ample availability and lower cost of operation.

The aim of this project was to provide knowledge and skills to plan, build and operate a biogas plant for domestic purposes. Upon successful completion of this project one should be able to convert domestic or farm waste into biogas and bio-manure.

Biogas is a mixture of gases produced during the anaerobic digestion of biological or organic materials. Anaerobic means oxygen-free while aerobic means with oxygen. In a small farm, biogas can be made from the anaerobic decomposition of organic material such as livestock waste (urine, dung) and waste feeds. Biogas is produced when bacteria known as methanogen ferment or breakdown the organic material in the absence of oxygen. Methanogen bacteria prefer certain conditions and are sensitive to the microclimate within the digester. Methanogen bacteria develop slowly and are sensitive to sudden changes in temperature. For example, a sudden fall in the slurry temperature by even 20°C may significantly affect their growth and gas production rate.

Biogas consists of methane (CH₄) [also known as marsh gas or natural gas] 40-70%, carbon dioxide (CO₂) 30 to 40%, and low amounts of other gases such as hydrogen, nitrogen and hydrogen sulphide. Biogas is about 20% lighter than air and has an ignition temperature in the range of 650° to 750° C. It is odourless (after burning) and colourless and burns with a clear blue flame similar to that of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG). Biogas is a renewable fuel because it is produced from waste treatment. Biogas is produced inside a plant known as a bio digested gas.

BENEFITS OF BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY

Cooking based on biogas has the following advantages over traditional cooking:

- 5 times higher stove efficiency,
- saves the time spent gathering firewood,
- does not produce smoke,
- does not burn the pans and so there is less work to clean them,
- cooks faster and the flame can be regulated,
- cooking can be done in an up-right position,
- cooking can easily be done inside the house,
- and safe to use because less chance of children getting burnt.

BENEFITS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Biogas production significantly reduces carbon dioxide emission and helps to preserve forests. Biogas production by anaerobic digestion also reduces emissions of greenhouse gases from the storage and utilisation of untreated animal manure as fertilizer. Biogas is a clean source of energy as it does not produce smoke or soot during combustion. Another benefit of biogas technology is its ability to improve management of waste by transforming it into a valuable resource. It also reduces offensive odours which come from overloaded or improperly managed manure storage facilities. These odours impair air quality and may be a nuisance to nearby communities. Also, biogas reduces the surface and ground water pollution.
- At BGIS, we have designed our own mini biogas setup. The schematic diagram of the setup is shown in Figure 1. For inlet one bucket need to be placed at the top of the bio digester drum. To place the inlet pipe, there should be a hole at the bottom of the bucket. The inlet pipe should reach to sufficient depth to keep it immersed. Also, the inlet pipe should not touch the bottom of the drum as it would obstruct slurry inflow. The outlet can be done on the half of the height of the drum. During the digestion process the bio digester can be kept 60% filled. The outlet bucket will ensure the height of slurry inside the digester.

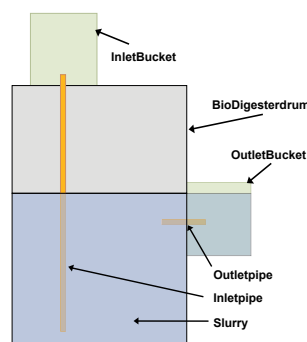


Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the placement of inlet and outlet on bio digester setup

Gas outlet is to be made on the top side of the drum. Gas can be stored in a vehicle tube as shown in Figure 2: below.



Figure 2: Sealing of the gas outlet

Filtration process is required to remove two major harmful gases—1) CO₂ which leads to inefficient burning, and 2) hydrogen sulphide which produces pollutant sulphur dioxide. CO₂ is filtered by aqueous solution of caustic soda, and Hydrogen sulphide by iron wool as shown in Figure 3. The biogas started producing biogas after 7 to 10 days of keeping the biogas slurry in biodigester.

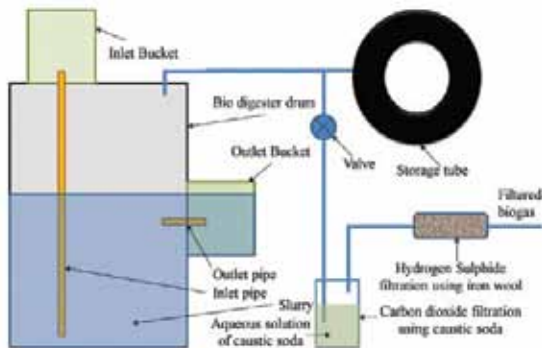


Figure 3 : Biogas filtration setup



Figure 4.8: Filled bio digester

EXPERIENCE

“While working on this biogas plant project, I realized that Krishna has given all these resources in nature itself for our sustenance. Krishna cares for us as the supreme well-wisher and He has sent mother cow for our nourishment and prosperity. I also realized the importance of cows. Cows are very dear to Krishna and its milk can be used to serve Krishna and their devotees. But even the dung is so useful. Moreover, the potential of dung as a energy source for Rural India is immense. If implemented properly, bio gas can solve the rural energy crisis and also make cows and bulls economically feasible. I can now appreciate mother cow as Krishna’s greatest gift for the human race.

WAY FORWARD

A large biogas plant of 200 cu-m is being constructed to provide required energy for the upcoming dairy plant in the BGIS campus. In future, another biogas plant will be constructed to provide biogas for cooking. Students will be involved to make portable biogas units. Further research will be carried out to effectively use biogas slurry for agricultural purposes and for making other useful products.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

TEAM PROJECT: TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO WATER FILTRATION

Team Members

Akhil Agarwal | Rupa Manohar Das | Vrindavani Devi Dasi
Balaram Kripa Das | Rasasukha Das | Durjay Krsna Das | Harikeshwar Kushwaha

OVERVIEW

Urbanization and industrialization have led to the depletion of clean drinking water in most part of the world where people lack access to potable water due to the dearth of resources. According to a report from WHO (2010), around 1.1 billion people lack access to a clean drinking water source putting them at hazard of an assortment of health issues. The quality of water available in natural resources e.g. rivers, lakes, ponds and even groundwater nowadays is a serious cause of concern. The industrial and household wastes are being dumped in these water bodies leading to a scarcity of potable water for the common people.

The water may contain physical, chemical or biological contaminants. In this work, an effort has been made to remove most of the physical and biological contaminants and some chemical contaminants as well making it suitable for our daily use using natural and easily available materials and traditional methods.

FILTRATION METHODOLOGY:

In our approach, we use a three step process to treat the collected water from natural resources. Sedimentation, Filtration and Disinfection.



- Sedimenting water removes larger particles and often more than 50% of pathogens
- Filtering water removes smaller particles and often more than 90% of pathogens
- Disinfecting water removes, deactivates or kills any remaining pathogens

In our filter, we are using Bio-sand filter (BSF) concept and adding a charcoal layer to remove heavy metals (if any).

EXPERIMENTATION:

Raw Materials Needed

2 Ltrs Transparent Plastic Bottle, Glass Cup, Coarse Gravel (5-7mm), Fine Gravel (2-3 mm), Sand, Charcoal (activated), Cutter, Nail, Sand Separators (2 sizes), Hammer, Thin Cotton Cloth

Gravels and Sand collected from the construction site and filtered using separators.

They were thoroughly washed to remove all possible dirt particles and dried in the sunlight to disinfect them.

Filter Design (Step-by-Step Instructions)

1. Cut the plastic bottles horizontally at the bottom and invert it.
2. Make 4-5 holes in the lid to allow water to pass when inverted.
3. Place a small piece of cloth in the lid and close it
4. Add Coarse gravels (Handful) in the three bottles, this is to allow proper drainage of water from the holes in the lid
5. In bottle-1, add charcoal (10 cms)

6. In bottle-2, add Fine Gravels (10 cm) and then add Coarse gravels (8-10 cm)
7. In bottle-3, add sand (15 cm) and then add Coarse gravels (5 cms) at the top
8. The filter is ready, the water need to be passed from bottles 1 then 2 then 3.

The water sample for testing was collected from the pond containing rain water which has high turbidity.

The water was first poured into bottle-1 and then the output was poured into bottle-2 and then that output was poured into bottle-3. At the end, the output from bottle-3 was collected as the final filtered water (result).

EXPERIMENTATION SNAPSHOTS:



Layers of Gravels



Sand Layer



Assembling the filter



Experimental Result

RESULT ANALYSIS

The resultant filtered water is compared with the source water. Most of the turbidity has been removed. And the filtered water is free from any odour.

EXPERIENCES

Akhil Agarwal _____

A learning as well as practical experience I had on the subject of Water Filtration. Water is necessary for each living entities but for humans who can use his knowledge to get the contaminated water purified and make it drinkable. Very easy and simple method with the help of raw materials like sand , gravels, charcoal one can easily purify the water.

"This project is a nice learning curve and value addition in respect of team work, co-ordination, co-operation and

Rupa Manohar Das _____

A learning as well as practical experience I had on the subject of Water Filtration. Water is necessary for each living entities but for humans who can use his knowledge to get the contaminated water purified and make it drinkable. Very easy and simple method with the help of raw materials like sand , gravels, charcoal one can easily purify the water.

"This project is a nice learning curve and value addition in respect of team work, co-ordination, co-operation and working hard for the satisfaction of Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga. I learnt practical method of purification of water using bio-sand filtration including collection of ingredients namely small stones, pebbles, sand, charcoal and how to purify these ingredients before using for filtration. There were several failures but we had a success with lot of experimentations. Lastly, I would thank everyone for getting me involved in this project service".

Rasa Sukha Das _____

This is my first study of the purification of water.

There was no difficulty in the process of water purification when I got the knowledge of it. There is abundance of contaminated water everywhere and I can make it clean with process of water purification and can be used for drinking, cooking etc.

Balaram Kripa Das _____

This service which I was given is very natural, beneficial and very very close to our personal life. I enjoyed very much. I experienced many things with my team members like how to purify the water by different natural ideas. I came to know how R.O. water is dangerous for us and how can we use natural water from natural resources. Actually to be close with nature is our nature and we will try to improve our experience of purifying water so that we all may remain healthy and happy. Many thanks to our director and principal, who are engaging us in these kind of services.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

LOW COST ECO-FRIENDLY HOUSING

Team Members

Sarvajna Gauranga Das
Krishna Arvinda Das
Parvesh Kumar
Sarad Bihari Das
Radhakant Das

The emission of greenhouse gases like CO₂ is increasing at an alarming rate and is having disastrous impact on the environment and the leading cause of global warming and climatic changes. The construction sector is responsible for a significant portion of the total CO₂ emission. To minimise CO₂ emission through building construction, it is necessary to explore alternative construction materials like adobe, mud, cow dung, straw and other local material like low energy intensive material.

If the conventional high energy materials like cement, steel, brick are replaced by local alternative materials, then there is a significant reduction in the embodied energy in buildings. There are three important considerations for analysing the energy used in construction of buildings—the energy required to construct the building by using various materials, the energy required for maintaining comfortable conditions inside the building and the emission of carbon dioxide to the environment.

It is seen that total embodied energy can be reduced by 37% when local materials are used for building construction. Embodied energy of building mainly depends on the choice of building materials and building techniques.

Energy and Building Materials

The energy consumed in the production of a few building material chosen from various sources (Gartner and Smith, 1976, K.S.Jagdish) is shown in the table given below :

Cement, which is used extensively for building construction, consumes a lot of energy during its manufacturing. Adobe is a type of mud brick. A mud brick made of mixture of mud, sand, clay and water mixed with a building material such as straw. A mud brick is also a fire free brick and hence uses zero energy. The external wall of adobe is plastered by mud mortar with cow dung and sand. Aluminium, glass and steel are high embodied energy materials used in building construction. Aluminium consumes 6.5 times more than the energy of steel.

USE OF MUDBRICK FOR CONSTRUCTION

Traditionally, mud bricks have been extensively used for construction in the past across the globe. For example, in Yemen, there are multi storeyed apartments made purely out of mud bricks. There are several advantages that mud bricks have over conventional clay burnt bricks, such as:

- i. Low in embodied energy
- ii. Utilisation of natural resources and minimal use of manufactured products
- iii. Good sound absorption characteristics
- iv. High thermal mass leading to natural air-conditioning effect
- v. Easily manufactured
- vi. Flexibility in design/colour/surface finishes



Fig 1: More than 500 year old mud house in Yemen

Types of Materials	Energy Consumed (MJ/Kg)
Mud brick (Excavated from the site)	0.0
Cement	4.2
Steel	36
Brick	5
Glass	15.9
Aluminium	236.8

SOIL TESTING

Soil was done to measure the relative amounts of sand, silt and clay in a soil sample of our land. This activity is based on the fact that large, heavy particles will settle most rapidly in water; while small, light particles will settle most slowly. Laundry detergent was used to dissolve the soil aggregates and keep the individual oil particles separated.



Fig 2 : Soil testing

MAKING MUD BRICKS

Mud bricks, or adobe, are one of the world's oldest building materials. They are inexpensive, simple to make, environmentally friendly, and used all over the world to make low-cost homes and fireproof buildings. Soil was collected from the site and cleaned. Water was added to clay. The prepared clay was molded into rectangular brick shape blocks and then left for drying under the sun for two days. The strength of the mud bricks were found to be close to burnt bricks.



Fig 3,4 : Making mudbricks at site

MUD PLASTERING

The team collected the materials for plastering and did plaster of a portion of the reception building. The plaster constituted of mud, limestone, cow dung and sand in the ratio 5:1:1:1/2, respectively. Cow dung was added for better binding, anti-septic and water repelling quality.



Fig 5,6 : Plastering at site

EXPERIENCE

"Earth building can be extremely simple, especially with adobe that a beginner can attempt and successfully build his own home. The self-satisfaction experienced from building your own home should not be underrated. If done properly an earth building can be constructed with less use of toxins. You may not need pesticides to control termites. You may not need so many plastics, adhesives and other building materials that emit toxins into the air". – Parvesh

"I had heard about eco-friendly housing and had some interest in it. However, I only had a superficial idea. As a part of this project, I studied few research papers on mud bricks and it was an eye-opener for me. The most exciting part was making bricks on our own and plastering. It was a special experience. I realized that Krishna has already given us all we need to lead a eco-friendly life in the mode of goodness". – Radhakant Das

For people like me who are nature loving, projects like this makes a lot of sense by living in harmony with nature we can be happy without harming Nature and other living entities. Making a natural house by using mud, cow dung, husk from rice waste has been done from ancient times. It is very comfortable to live inside due to its insulating properties. I realized that even now a lower middle class man can make his house in a simple way without working so hard to make a concrete building. – Krishna Arvinda Das

WAY FORWARD

The future buildings of Vrindaranyam BGIS new campus will implement some of the principles of eco-friendly housing. The new staff quarters of BGIS is being built using eco-friendly materials like compressed stabilized mud blocks, arch panel roofs etc. The students will be encouraged to make mud bricks on their own.

Under human waste management, we studied the alternate ways of managing human waste that are currently prevalent in India such as pit latrines, septic tanks, sewage treatment facilities and bio toilets. After making a brief evaluation of each of these we made a working model of a bio toilet.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WASTE MANAGEMENT

TEACHERS TRAINING JUNE-JULY 2018

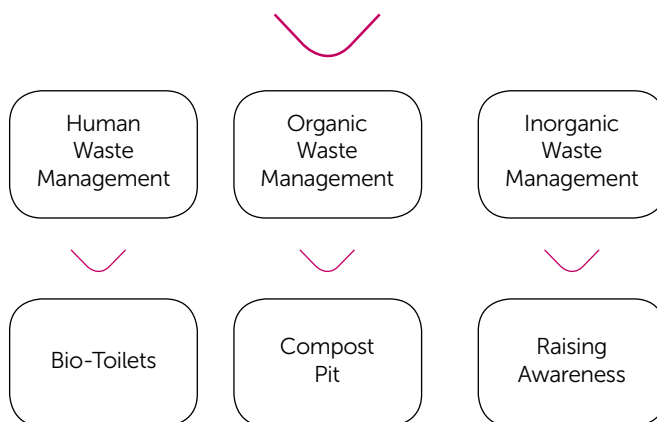
An interesting journey of learning began on 27 June 2018 at Vrindaranyam under the guidance of our director, Dr. Lila Purushottam Prabhuji. It was an entirely different experience this year of the Teachers' Training program from previous years, where we were trained to think and act rather than sit and hear. We all were really excited this time as Lila Purushottam Prabhuji had planned projects that would enhance our life skills and which could be later taught to the students of Gurukula as a part of their curriculum.

Teachers were grouped under different teams with one leader responsible for a project. Our team was assigned to work on environmental concerns with focus on waste management.

We identified the following main areas of concern under waste management:

Under human waste management we studied the alternate ways of managing human waste that are currently prevalent in India such as pit latrines, septic tanks, sewage treatment facilities and bio toilets. After making a brief evaluation of each of these we made a working model of a bio toilet.

WASTE MANAGEMENT



BIO-TOILETS

Working Mechanism:

Bio-digester toilets are designed to convert human waste into gases and manure at the source. The zero-waste biodigester technology uses psychrotrophic bacteria like *Clostridium* and *Methanosarcina* (these microbes can live in cold or hot climate and feed on waste to survive) to break down human excreta into usable water and gas. Once applied, the bacteria can work for a lifetime.

To show the working mechanism of a bio toilet, we assembled the following apparatus:

1. Three plastic buckets (Two of same size and one slightly smaller)
2. 4-5 inch diameter PVC pipe
3. 1 Valve
4. Slurry (Mixture of same volume of cow dung and water)
-This is done for the good working of bacteria

To make a bio-digester, two holes are made in one of the buckets (one for the feed and second for the methane gas to escape). The second bucket (smaller) which again has two holes, is placed inverted in the third bucket. The two holes in the inverted bucket are for the methane gas to escape.



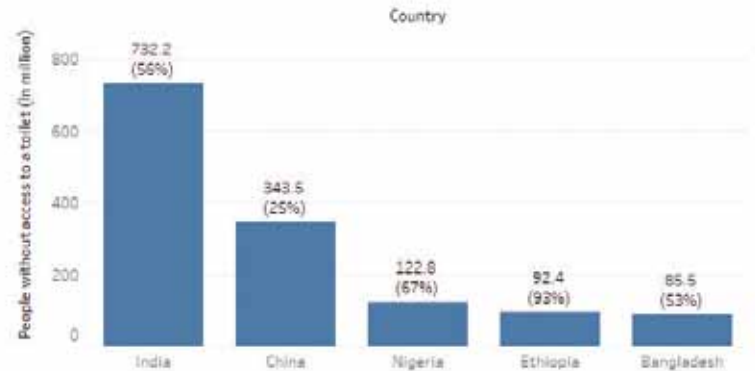
NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF BIO TOILETS:

Bio toilets are easy to install and since they treat human waste at the source they help improve the hygiene among the masses and curtail ailments caused on account of lack of proper sanitation facilities

In addition to the risk of disease, lack of sanitation facilities also make women and girls susceptible to harassment and illiteracy. Around 23% of adolescent girls drop out in India due to lack of sanitation facilities.

Bio toilets being easy to install as well as hygienic, seem to be a panacea for India's sanitation problem.

Lack Of Access To A Toilet: Top 5 Countries



ORGANIC AND INORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Organic waste easily decomposes and does not cause any harm to the environment. All kitchen waste such as vegetable and fruit peels fall in this category. This waste can be used as cattle feed or can be used to make manure. Our team learnt the process of making compost pit and an ongoing experiment will show the varying effects of compost made with cow dung as against different cultures of laboratory bacteria



RAISING AWARENESS ON INORGANIC WASTE

Inorganic waste is more challenging to manage since its process of decomposition is very slow and causes much damage to the environment. While some of the plastic in the form of bottles is being recycled most of it in the form of bags/ glasses or wrappers lies untreated, clogging drains or becoming a major health hazard for cattle that end up eating it.

We spoke to an NGO that works on environmental issues in Vrindavan called as the 'Friends of Vrindavan' who also did not have any solution on the menace of managing plastic bags, plastic wrappers. For now the maximum we can do is to separate plastic from other biodegradable waste. The bigger challenge of managing inorganic waste is the lack of awareness among majority of people regarding both identifying the bio non degradable stuff and then recognizing its harmful effects on the environment.

We plan to raise awareness in neighboring communities and villages through street plays and some practical demonstrations.

OUR EXPERIENCE

Inorganic waste is more challenging to manage since its process of decomposition is very slow and causes much damage to the environment. While some of the plastic in the form of bottles is being recycled most of it in the form of bags/ glasses or wrappers lies untreated, clogging drains or becoming a major health hazard for cattle that end up eating it.

"It was a wonderful experience for me as it gave me a chance to explore my student side after approximately 14 years. Due to the mercy of Dr. Lila Purshottam Prabhuji, I got a chance to stay in Dham for 08 days and got the association of such talented team of teachers and IITians. I actually realized the existing problem of waste management is quite grave. The statistics show that in our capital city Delhi almost 50% of human waste is left untreated which can contaminate the ground water. It gives me a shudder to even think that maybe in the future years all we have left with this contaminated water mixed with human waste".

It's true that this was the first time most of us even gave a thought on how our own waste is being managed. While we gained a lot of theoretical information on the existing sanitation system in India we also learnt to develop our own working model of a bio toilet which can be taught later to our students of BGIS.

Sanjukta Mataji puts it across aptly, "I had lots of practical and learning experience. We did lot of research and learnt different technologies to protect environment. Through practical learning, boys are engaged effectively. There's so much to share with the boys about the suffering that we have created for animals because of pollution created by us all".

Working on the fields in the sun gave us many insights which we teachers would have hardly got. Annu Mataji shares, "I got to learn a lot in this project. To work in the fields was fun but also tough. I realized the kind of tough life that our farmers lead and my respect for them increased by multiple times. It was a indeed a new realization". Kavita Mataji shares, "We have had lot of practical experiences in this project. Our project was research oriented. This project brought my teammates together. I enjoyed working in the fields. It was new to me. I had knowledge which was only superficial but as we went on to do practically, so many questions were unanswered and I had to work a lot in finding the answers and talking to experts. It was a great learning experience!"

This project trained us at a professional level as well since we now feel more equipped to handle project based learning for our students. Akanaksha Mataji brings out this point when she says, "I learned the effective use of cow dung at both personal and professional levels. The awareness in me about the hazardous effects of inorganic waste came about through this project. I feel more ready to take students on field and teach them how to make compost, talk to them how to manage human waste and explain the pathetic sanitation system of our country".

Sumadhuri Mataji expresses a similar opinion when she says, "I was so excited to do the street play in Ajhai village. But while we were preparing for it, I realized that there's much that I need to do myself. I became aware that we educated teachers need to begin separating organic and inorganic waste first ourselves and then create more awareness in the neighborhood. Truly a new awareness!"

To develop life skills among students is a goal that many schools aspire. This training gave us a firsthand exposure to us teachers. Our new gurukula campus, Vrindaranyam would be an ideal one and a unique one too if we developed these life skills among our students. This would surely attract many students from all over the world and would this not please Srila Prabhupada!

ROBOTICS

Lila Govinda Dasa

Jean Piaget is a swiss psychologist worked on the child cognitive development says that, "Learning-by-doing is an educational approach that knowledge is not transmitted to children but is constructed in the children's minds"¹. Constructionism imports that not only do we learn by doing, but we learn best when we are engaged in building some type of external artifact, be it a story, a robot, or a theory. To foster children's creativity and imagination in this direction, BGIS envisioning

to train children in a new branch called Animatronics. Animatronics refers to the use of robotic devices to emulate human or animal lifelike characteristics to an inanimate object. In the days to come we would like to engage students to create puppet shows of stories, narrations from scriptures using different robotic devices. To equip the teachers and staff with the necessary skills, under the direction of HG Lila Purushothama Prabhujii a team of staff has taken up exploring and learning new things during the teachers retreat from 27-Jun to 5-Jul 2018 in the Vrindaranyam campus. The team consists of Gadhadhara Gauranga Das, Ananta Padmanabha Das, Savitri Devi Dasi, Tirupati Balaji, Jay, Abhishek and myself. In the words of Gadhadhara Gauranga Das, a senior school science teacher, "this overall activity helped us to learn new things to engage students creatively. Students show increased enthusiasm in designing robots and programming them as per the script than studying the subject theoretically. The main objective of using it to create dramas which will make them to read and understand the scriptures".

Animatronics is a multi-disciplinary field which integrates anatomy, robots, mechatronics, and puppetry resulting in lifelike animation. During a weeklong training, we have worked on the robotics and mechatronics in both hardware and software platforms. In simple terms robot is a device which carries a complex series of actions automatically and mechatronics helps us to understand the movement of device and associated principles to be considered in designing the device. We have used Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotics kit to learn the basics of motors, sensors and concept of programming. EV3, which stands for Evolution 3 is a series of educational robotic platform developed by LEGO education. Use of robotics in education started early in 1960s with programming language LOGO and a turtle robot connected to the computer. Later it was evolved into educational robotics platform from Mindstorms RCX, NXT, NXT-G, LABVIEW to present Ev3.

Simple block diagram of a robot can be explained in Figure: 1. EV3 kit main component is EV3 Brick, the programmable intelligent brick that controls motors and sensors, as well as providing wireless communication². We connected and controlled the intelligent brick with the computer using Bluetooth.



Figure 1 Block Diagram of a Robot

Our primary convener Savitri Mataji shares that, "robotics can create curiosity in the minds of children and learn science with more interest, they start questioning more frequently and learn new things. For example, when a robot moves, student question's, at what speed is the wheel rotating? One rotation of wheel covers, how much distance? In the process they learn so called science and maths, it is an undivided holistic knowledge. It can install both skills and values simultaneously through the overall experience."

Our objective for a week was to demonstrate the working of line follower robot, self-balancing robot. As it is said robot is a programmable device, we have used a graphical programming tool Lego Mindstroms Education EV3 and ROBOTC, a cross robotic platform programming language to programme the EV3 brick. We have divided into two teams, one team worked on the line controlling robot as another team explored on the self-balancing robot. The final robots prepared by the team are in Figure-2.

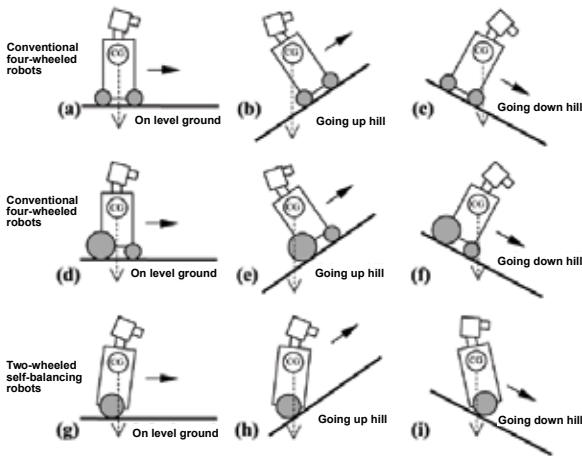
Figure 2 Savitri Mataji preparing the line follower robot and robots prepared during training program



Line follower robot: A driving base was constructed. A test track is printed and pasted on the floor. By using color sensor, the robot follows only the designated track. A programme is designed using Lego Mindstorms Education EV3 tool. The robot is programmed such that if it detects green color track, it moves or else it stops with an alarm sound. This project was taken to understand the basic flow control mechanism like wait, loop, switch functions of the programming language and usage of sensors with programme.

Self-balancing robot: Steven J Witzand³ says that, to design a self-balancing robot requires a stabilized control system to maintain upside right without any external forces. Figure: 3 explains the design principle of self-balancing robot below. EV3 system provides a gyro sensor, which provides a very vital information to design a control system mechanism to design the self-balancing system. Gyro sensor (Figure: 5) detects and inputs the controller the change in the sensor position from the last time when it was reset and the rate of change i.e. at what speed the deviation is taking place in degrees/ second. By using this

information from the gyro sensor, based on the center of gravity of the robot structure, a control system mechanism programme is written using ROBOTC programming language. We have used a base code prepared Steven J Witzand for EV3 platform. The programme was tuned by Jay prabhujii to control its speed, balancing and rotations. Jay is an enthused learner, who explores and shares new things to students, recently he attended a special workshop from IIT Kanpur on robotics and its new technologies. His programming skills helped the entire team to learn new things during the project. In the words of Ananta Padmanabha Prabhujii, "sensors of the robots are like sense organs of a living being, we take inputs through these senses that respond physically using body parts like mouth, hands, legs, these mechanisms can be implemented using motors and can be controlled using intelligent brick like EV3. Students connect the robots and human behavior and understand and appreciate the complexity of god's creation". List of books used in learning the EV3 kit programming are listed in the references⁴⁻⁵.



Note : Self-balancing robot maintains good traction by shifting its centre of gravity above its wheel at all times

Figure : 3 Design principle of self-balancing robot³

Overall, this exercise helped us to explore and create new avenues for us to become better students before transferring the skills to others. Students started exploring the kits in the afternoon hours after summer vacation. They have created very innovative structures. You can see them in Figure: 4.

Soon, we will be having a special laboratory to design different puppets using single board computer systems like Arduino, Raspberry Pi, etc. In the process, we will also explore the anatomy of character like appearance like eyes, nose, head, eyes, eyebrows, nose, ears, etc... so there is no end to creativity.

Figure : 4 Robots prepared by BGIS students



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WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

"SMART-LOW BUDGET-NATURAL FARMING"

Project Coordinators: HG Srinivas Krishna Das & Piyush Sehgal

Team Members: *Rajshekhar Das, Trilochan Das, Surananda Das, Gaura Goswami, Arpana Gupta, Kalpana Sharma*

The state we are in today

The increased use of chemicals in farming nowadays is resulting in deterioration of physical, mental and psychological capabilities and qualities of society in general. Due to hybridization of seeds and unethical use of chemicals, the decline in the basic quality of food items has taken place. Lack of interest in keeping native cows, lack of sensitivity towards the suffering of Mother Earth by using chemicals, the spiritual physiological and mental degradation of the mankind is evident.

Every day consumption of such chemically developed fruits, milk etc., makes us diseased and genetically deteriorated. Moreover, when sick we mostly go to allopathic doctors to eat more chemicals via medicines. We are knowingly behaving unaware to keep ourselves unattached by the guilt of irreversible harm to our future generations.

For instance, quick product is doubled by adding urea to a common wheat farms, but urea makes soil unfit for future irrigation. The wheat of such a chemically treated farm produces chemical heat in the body which enhances dangerous diseases. Whatever fodder the cattle are fed, the milk of such cattle also becomes contaminated and damages the body in every possible way.

The use of urea, DAP, pesticides, etc. makes the earth deteriorating and dry. Such chemicals go deep into the earth's surface and make the earth very hard because these chemicals contain salt in their formula. As a result, earth becomes so hard that the water of rain etc. cannot penetrate in it and the friendly organisms that live naturally under the surface of the earth die. Over the time, they cannot come over the top of the earth and our soil refinements cannot be completed naturally.

In sum, if we continue focusing on adding such unnatural elements to soil and even in cows, we will have a situation where there will be plenty of land, but hardly any fertility to grow anything on it.

A. What about the so called 'organic farming'?

The so called 'organic farming' is not beneficial for the farmer. Use of hybrid seeds, tractors, expensive manure – all of it makes it difficult for the marginal farmer to make the best of natural farming.

Another issue is using hybrid seeds in organic farming, where we will not get good crop or yield because hybrid seeds are not used along with domestic cow dung. In the 70's 80's decades, farmers were misled due to which the farmers used urea but later on when their productivity decreased in 3 or 4 years they were presented by hybrid seeds. The loop which they were unable to trace was that hybrid seeds do not grow without chemical supplements.

Therefore, the use of hybrid seeds and chemical products in fields became compulsion and non-ending non terminating process for them.

B. The proposed solution of Smart – Low cost – 100% Natural farming'?

Our model proposes that the use of chemicals should be done away with in agriculture at any cost. If cultivation is done in a chemical freeway, by using only naturally available cattle produce and with a Krishna conscious approach, it is then that the produce will be fit to cultivate our spiritual understanding and it can be called natural farming. In ancient times, no pesticides, fertilizers, etc. were used in the cultivation, but still the cultivation was very beautiful and very fertile. Even today no fertilizers are

added in the forests nor any pesticides are flown, even then trees in the forests bloom and produce their best. The forest trees themselves manage their manures and defense by process of natural humus formation. Dead remains of insects, worms and animals, dried leaves and trees provide suitable nutrition required for trees.

In order to make the soil naturally fertile and to prevent it from diseases, there are many uses of domestic cow dung and cow urine in the natural farming. Both natural cultivation and native cow keeping are two sides of the same coin simultaneously. Krishna (the cow keeper) and Balaram (the plough user) remain together always so does exist our natural spiritual farming. The farming and native cow keeping go side by side, and work best to cultivate a Krishna Concerned produce.

Smartness Aspect

- Utilization of multi cropping such that one crop complements the other.
- Zero waste concept as cow dung becomes useful manure and agri-waste becomes raw material for mulching
- Smartly designed bed of 4ft such that one person can cultivate the entire bed

Low budget Aspect

- Only use of dung, urine, and small amount of besan and jaggery
- No use of extensive machinery
- Indigenous seeds to save money

C. Key elements of natural farming

- Natural farming revolves around the cultivation of microbial culture of soil through dung and urine of cows. In this regard, the following three techniques are mainly used.

1. Ghana-jiva-amrita (GJA)
2. Beeja-amrita (BJ)
3. Jeevaamrita (JA) (natural liquid fertilizer)

- During the camp team members prepared all the three.

- Composition: 100 kg cow dung (of local / indigenous / native cows), 10 lt cow urine (of local / indigenous / native cows), 1 kg jaggery / molasses, 1kg gram flour, 1 handful of good soil

- Preparation: To prepare the Ghana-jiva-amrita Fertilizer take the above ingredients serial wise with proper measurement either on the dry floor or inside a deep vessel for mixing them and follow:

i) To take 100 kg cow dung; add 10 ltrs. of cow urine and mix well then add mixture of gram flour and jaggery in it then at last add handful of good soil and mix them well. After being properly mixed of all the ingredients cover the mixture with thick jute sack for three days.

ii) On third day to open the mixture and spread on the dry floor and to let it dry in air; then make powder of this mixture which will serve as as natural fertilizer for our crops. Now Ghana-jiva-amrita is ready to be applied on the seed-bed(s) before sowing seed; and after seedling this GJA can be spread around the seed-beds. This can be stored as long period of time.



Ghana Jivamrita Preparation by the team members

Preparation of Seed-bed, Ghana-jiva-amrita & Water Caring

To explain the application of aforementioned aspects of farming, we decided to make a small plantation bed of size 4 ft by 20 ft, where all aspects of proposed project – NATURAL + LOW BUDGET + SMART farming will be highlighted.



Test bed setup with seeds

A. RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

The project is not complete yet. We intend to further take care of the bed so that the young seedlings can be seen growing into well grown plants. However, we can easily observe how the soil is nurtured through worms with the use of natural fertilizer and how smartly various crops can be planted in small bed of 4ft X 20 ft. Our next step will be:

1. To continue nurturing the plantation bed
2. To convert this manual into Hindi language for the use of farmers
3. To provide training to students and facilitate project based learning

SELECT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Hare Krishna, my experience with this project is very nice and I learnt a lot. I keenly observed all the process related to natural farming and I could see that results are seen so quickly like the growth of worms during the preparation of ghanjivamrita. Now I was thinking how it could be low cost but actually it turned out to be extremely low cost in the sense that all we used was cow dung cow urine mud, water very little cost for besan gud thats it..I got very good experience of smart low cost natural farming as it

To encourage the general populace, especially the village folk & our BGIS community circle, to cultivate an appreciation for natural farming, cows and the food we get as a gift from Krsna. At a broader level, we believe that by engaging students and teachers of Gurukula in such an endeavor, we can help develop an all round perspective that includes: The physical, mental and spiritual health of human life in a very natural and simple way to attain the ultimate goal of the culture of self-realization (i.e. Krsna consciousness). The motto of this endeavor is Simple Living and High Thinking.

The success and final outcome of this project required a lot of guidance and assistance from many people and we are extremely privileged to have got this all along the completion of our project. All that we have done is only due to such supervision and assistance and we would not forget to thank them.

Firstly we respect and thank His Grace Dr. Lilapurushottam Das Prabhuji for providing us an opportunity to be part of this project work in the new campus of BGIS, Ajhai Village and giving us all support and guidance, through which we completed the project duly. We are extremely grateful to him for providing such a nice support and guidance, although he had busy schedule directing the project of BGIS's new campus.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

ACADEMIC CAMP

A fascinating academic camp of ten days was organized in the new campus of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School from 21st November to 1st of December. It was the first time that the entire BGIS community- all students and teachers stayed in the new campus.

The ten-day camp was a brainchild of the Director, HG Lila Purushottam Das. It was mainly centered around project-based learning and also included some classroom and sports activities. The objective of the camp was to give the students a very exciting and enlivening learning experience at the new campus before they could permanently shift there.

Krishna first - The day started with the morning program- mangalarti, Japa meditation and Guru-puja. The students then participated in yoga session under the expert direction of Madhava kirti Das. It was followed by the school assembly with the melodious chanting of the school song "Vrindavanaramyasthan"



The teachers organized different types of activities based on the age groups. The primary school was engaged in learning the Sanskrit verses, taking care of the cows, clay modeling, skit presentation, art and craft making and basic scientific experiments in the laboratory.

The students from grade 6 to 9 classes were engaged in various projects based on their interests like low cost eco-friendly housing, waste management, water purification, organic farming, astronomy and robotics. Each project group had two teachers as their mentor. The students of class 10 and 11 had their regular academic classes.

His Grace Lila PurushottamDas facilitated special classes for English and Mathematics. The English session was about "Listening and Speaking". For attentive listening, he showed a video interview with Srila Prabhupada and asked students to list out the important vocabulary used in the video. Then he demonstrated effective speaking skills by acting as a host on a "Cooking Show". It was a very lively, humorous, interactive session. The class for Mathematics was focused on analytical and logical thinking. He enthusiastically answered the inquiries from the students and teachers.



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On the final day of the camp, each group made a presentation about the project work in front of all the teachers and students. HG Lila Purshottam Das and other teachers were pleased to see the sincere efforts and creativity exhibited by the students. The best of all was a demonstration of fascinating experiments in Chemistry by students of class 9 with Ajay Gudla as their mentor. The academic camp was a unique experience for the children. Some students expressed that for the first time in their life they started enjoying Science and Mathematics. We hope to have more of such camps in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACADEMIC CAMP

The camp was intended to train students in project based learning along with classroom learning focused in English and Math.

- The activity based learning for primary graders was in the following areas:
 - 1) Shloka learning
 - 2) Cow care
 - 3) Clay modeling
 - 4) Visiting the science lab and introduction to simple science experiments
 - 5) Art and craft activities
 - 6) Skit presentation
- Middle and high school students had special sessions on yoga by the reputed yoga teacher, Madhava Kirti Das.
- Students from grades 6- 9 were divided into different groups to be engaged in different life skills training listed as below:
 - 1) Low cost/eco-friendly housing
 - 2) Waste management
 - 3) Water purification
 - 4) Organic farming
 - 5) Astronomy and
 - 6) Robotics
- There were special sessions on English and Math conducted by Lila Purushottam Das for all students which were amazingly engaging.
- The session he conducted on English was focussed on listening and speaking. For listening, students heard an interview of Srila Prabhupada and answered a number of questions by Lila Purushottam Das. For speaking, he first demonstrated an imaginary cookery show where he spoke on the different steps of making 'Pulao'. Students had to learn from this and also present the same. It was not an effective teaching methodology since it focused on various nuances of language like sentence construction, logical arrangement of sentences, conversational skills and use of good vocabulary. It was very humorous too!
- During assembly, Lila Purushottam Das threw challenges to both students and teachers in different areas which required logical thinking. While for primary graders the challenges were in the area of art, for teachers and other students the questions were focussed on Math and analytical thinking. Students showed very good response and were awarded in assembly for their answers.
- Throughout the camp, discipline among students was aimed to be achieved positively through the announcement of Star Class, potential school captains and appreciation of students for different services.

FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

JANMASHTAMI

@ VRINDARANYAM

Janmashtami, the divine appearance day of Lord Krishna, is the most important festival for the followers of Sanatana Dharma. It is observed in a grand manner across all ISKCON centers throughout the world with millions of people visiting the temples for darshans. At BGIS also, Janmashtami is the biggest celebration of the year. Every year, students start preparations for Janmashtami months in advance just like students prepare for Annual day in other schools.

The year 2018 was historic because for the first time, the Janmashtami festival was organized at Vrindaranyam-The new Gurukula campus on September 3rd with devotion and grandeur. Hundreds of students along with their parents and a good number of devotees came together in a true festive spirit.

The construction team at the new campus went on a marathon to complete the ongoing construction work to make the campus ready for the Janmashtami celebrations. The newly constructed buildings were cleansed thoroughly and decorated with flowers and colorful festoons. Students of BGIS also started visiting the new campus from the month of August to plan and make preparations for the Janmashtami festival.

All the residential students came by bus to the new campus a day before Janmashtami. They were joined by most of the day scholars. They stepped out of their buses with a smile expressing their joy and enthusiasm. The exhilaration expressed by students exuded in their hard-work put in the preparation of the grand event. Students made a replica of the sacred Goverdhan hill as the backdrop for the stage. In order to invoke auspiciousness and set in the right mood, a sweet and enthusiastic kirtan was performed by the students around the new campus on the evening before

The Janmashtami celebration started with Mangal Aarti at 5 am. All the teachers and students danced and sang together. It was followed by japa yajna, collective chanting of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra on beads to purify the consciousness to welcome Krishna. The Principal, Harikesh Kushwaha and Radhakant Das enlightened students to the importance of Janmashtami through important verses from Shrimad-Bhagavatam. After the morning program, all students went back to their assigned duties with their hearts drenched in service attitude for the pleasure of Krishna



During the day time, teachers in collaboration with students organized various competitions and events called "Welcoming Krishna". Children marked their participation in competitions like declamation, singing, making posters, extempore, poem, fancy dress etc. A quiz competition based on Srimad-Bhagvatam conducted by middle school English teachers was one of the competitions with a great popular appeal. The fragrance of flowers, soothing music, and sheer enthusiasm filled the air of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School and took us to the most awaited evening of the year filled with joy and fervor.

The evening program commenced with a short welcome speech by the Principal. It was followed by an inspiring speech and sankirtan led by HG Panchgauda Das, Temple President, ISKCON Vrindavan and one of the distinguished guests for the evening.

The cultural program included a myriad of music, dance and drama presentations by the students. The primary graders performed a wonderful dance in glorification of Yamuna. The middle school came next on stage exhibiting their mridanga skills. This was followed by an exquisite Gotipua dance presentation from primary students. Their charming steps and perfect acrobatics held the audience in rapt attention. More performances proceeded; drama skit of Bal Lila by primary graders, group song by 7th graders and Dandia Dance by primary school. Then a group of 9th-grade students performed a Bengali song which was composed by HH Jayapataka Swami, entitled "Yadi Prabhupada Na Hoito." A pleasant surprise was a fantastic "Nandotsav" performance by the teachers.

The major highlight of the program was a unique "Krishna quiz" conducted by the Director of BGIS, His Grace Lila Purushottam Das. He is a full time professor at IIT Kanpur and he travelled all the way from Kanpur to join us for this special Janmashtami program. The teachers were divided in six groups and there were multiple audio visual rounds. Very interesting questions were being asked. In case all the groups were unable to answer a question, then it was passed on to the audience. It was a tough competition and ended with a tie-breaker. The audience was hooked on the quiz which was a novel method of being absorbed in Krishna's divine pastimes and qualities.





The culmination of celebration was abhishekam- the majestic ceremonial bathing of the Lord. The small deities of Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar and Goverdhana were anointed with fragrant oils and were bathed with auspicious items like milk, yogurt, ghee, honey, sweet water, and fresh juices. Then they were smeared with turmeric paste and bathed in holy water. Varieties of flowers were showered until the deities were submerged in the soft bed of flowers. The Maha-abhishek ceremony was spearheaded by Raghunath Das assisted by students. While the bathing of the Lord was going on, the students recited the Brahma Samhita prayers and did an ecstatic harinam sankirtan. The atmosphere was surcharged with the vibration of the Holy Name of Krishna.



The Lord was then offered more than 108 different food items. The devotees prepared these food items with great care and devotion. Midnight aarti was offered to Shri Jagannath, Baldev and Subhadra as everyone danced in ecstatic sankirtan. Lord's mercy in the form of luscious feast prasadam was served and distributed to all.

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SRILA PRABHUPADA'S APPEARANCE DAY

The day after Janmashtami is the appearance day of Krishna's dear devotee, Srila Prabhupada, the founder Acharya of ISKCON and also our school. The school joyfully glorifies Srila Prabhupada on his divine appearance day.

Srila Prabhupada's appearance day was celebrated in one of the seminar halls of the academic building, which is currently temple of Lord Jagannath. Everyone honored Shri Prabhupada by reading aloud heartfelt appreciations and homage of his profound influence in their lives and prayed for blessings from him. The Director, HG Lila Purushottom Das, involved all teachers and students in an interesting quiz on the life of Srila Prabhupada.

The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Bablu Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Mathura District. He is a graduate from IIT Kanpur and has been a student of our Director. He delivered an inspiring speech in which he praised Srila Prabhupada's unique contribution to the entire society. He addressed BGIS students as young minds of today and the responsible citizens of tomorrow. He appreciated the efforts by the whole BGIS team for setting up an educational institute providing modern education along with Vedic values. He also unveiled the new book published by BGIS called "Vedic History". The program culminated with enthusiastic Harinamsankirtan and Pushpanjali for Srila Prabhupada. Everyone observed a fast till noon on that day, followed by a grand feast in Srila Prabhupada's honor.



Janmashtami celebration at the new campus was indeed a unique and beautiful experience for one and all. It was a spiritually nourishing experience in which one felt himself closer to Krishna. The new BGIS campus, once planted as a sapling, is now a large tree. It's like a dream come true! Celebrating Janmashtami was the best way to celebrate the completion of the new campus. We wish and pray that hundreds of Janmashtamis will be celebrated in Vrindaranyam campus in the years to come and the new campus will instill devotion for Lord Krishna in hearts of thousands of students..

RADHASHTAMI CELEBRATION & JANMASHTAMI APPRECIATION CEREMONY

On the day of Radhashtami, an evening programme was organized to appreciate all the students & staff who had enthusiastically worked hard to make Janmashtami a memorable experience. Programme started by mangala charan prayers & harinam samkirtan.

HH Bhakti Gaurava Narayana Swami glorified Srimati Radharani, her super excellent qualities & unalloyed devotion to Krishna and how it is important for a devotee to follow in her footsteps to achieve Krishna prema. Students enacted a drama on Sakshi Gopala, how Lord travelled from Vrindavan to Vidyanagara, a town in south India, as a witness by being subordinate to the devotion of His devotee.



Later Prizes were distributed to all the students who had participated in various competitions conducted during Janmashtami. It was a memorable evening as many guests & parents had joined for the programme.

Entire staff was personally appreciated by offering a token of appreciation for their services by Prindcipal Harikesh Prabhuji & Radhakant Prabhuji. A short video was played followed by dinner for everyone.

RAMACHANDRA VIJAYOSTAVA

- Vijaya Dashami

An uncontrolled mind is always accompanied by six enemies - namely, kama, krodha, mada, moha, matsarya and bhaya - that is, lust, anger, intoxication, illusion, envy and fear. Ravana represents kama. By taking shelter of Lord Rama one can overcome this enemy called lust. Every year BGIS celebrates Ramachandra Vijayostava festival with great pomp and splendor.

On 19th October, 2018 all the students and staff assembled in front of huge Ravana effigy at the goshala grounds to celebrate the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana millions of years ago. All children were well dressed in their uniforms and some of them were dressed in characters of Ramayana. The program started with mangalacharan prayers, kirtan & a short lecture on the glories of Lord Ram by HG Bhakti Vinod Das. Later students enacted a nice drama on the pastime of mother Sita being taken away by Ravana. At the end, the Ravana effigy was burnt as the entire ground was reverberated by Harinam Samkirtan led by HG Lila Purushotam Das. This program was attended by around 500 devotees from Krishna Balaram temple community. All the devotees were served prasad at the end.





NITYANANDA TRAYODASHI 2019

Five hundred years ago, when Lord Krishna appeared in Navadweepa as Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Lord Balarama appeared with him as Lord Nityananda. Lord Nityananda took birth in Ekachakra, a small village in West Bengal in the year 1473. His father, Hadai Ojha and mother Padmavati, were pious Brahmins originally from Mithila. Nityananda Prabhu was born on the auspicious thirteenth day (trayodashi) of the bright fortnight (Shukla paksha) of the month of Magha.

The Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School celebrated the most auspicious appearance day of Sri Nityananda Prabhu. The festivities started in the morning by an ecstatic harinam sankirtan from the students of primary and secondary classes. Different groups performed the chanting of Hare Krishna mahamantra and songs in glorification of Lord Nityananda. The sweet vibration of the holy names filled the air, inviting everyone to be absorbed on the purpose of this celebration. This was followed by a wonderful drama on the deliverance of Jagai and Madai.

Lord Nityananda was an ocean of compassion and mercy to the extremely fallen souls of kaliyuga. He delivered the most degraded miscreant brothers Jagai and Madhai. They were not just drunkards but also meat-eaters, woman-hunters,

bandits and sinners of all description. When Lord Nityananda saw Jagai and Madai creating a disturbance on the streets of Navadweepa, He thought that if He could bring these fallen souls to the path of pure devotion, people would develop a strong faith in the Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Lord Nityananda humbly requested Jagai and Madhai to give up their sinful activities and chant the holy names of the Lord. The two brothers became angry and Madhai threw a piece of a broken earthen pot at Him. Lord Nityananda was hit on the forehead and began to bleed. When Lord Chaitanya heard of the incident, He instantly appeared there in great anger and invoked His Sudarshana Chakra to kill Jagai and Madai. Lord Nityananda begged for the Lord's mercy reminding Him that in this incarnation He would not take up weapons against the demons. Lord Chaitanya relented only on the condition that the two brothers would give up their sinful ways and absorb themselves in devotional service by chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra. The terrified brothers pleaded for the Lord's mercy and surrendered to him. Thus it was by the immeasurable mercy of Lord Nityananda that two sinners took shelter of Lord Chaitanya and became pure devotees.

After the drama of Jagai and Madhai, His Holiness Bhakti Gaurav Narayan Maharaj gave a special class on the glories of Lord Nityananda. Maharaj highlighted Lord Nityananda's causeless mercy on the deliverance of Jagai and Madhai and he accentuated on Lord Nityananda's mission to assist Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu on propagation of the chanting of Krishna's name all over the world.

The majestic Gotipua dance troupe invaded the stage and amazed the audience with their graceful steps and unblemished acrobatic movements. This dance formation is not an easy one to master, as it requires rigorous training and regular practice. The wonderful performance of Gotipua boys received a well round of applause and appreciation from the spectators. Another drama was presented by the students on the first meeting of Lord Nityananda and Lord Chaitanya. After this, the grand bathing ceremony of Gaur Nitai took place.

The pujaris headed by HG Raghunath Das facilitated the bathing of their Lordships. Different sets of deities of Gaur Nitai were standing

gracefully on receptacle to accept the offerings of the devotees. Everyone was startled, watching each sacred substance infused with sweet-smelling oils poured opulently over the deities of Lord Nityananda and Lord Chaitanya. It was a pleasure for the eyes and heart. While the bathing is going on, the students were melodiously chanting the holy names of Gauranga and Nityananda. The students recited the Brahma Samhita prayers and continued the harinam sankirtan, transporting everyone to a different realm. Those who are present participated in the most auspicious bathing ceremony and felt tremendously fortunate and blessed. The event was concluded by offering different articles of worship to the Deities and a sumptuous feast followed in honor of Lord Nityananda.



NARASIMHA CHATURDASI - 2019



18th May was Narasimha Chaturdasi when Vaishnavas around the world celebrate the triumph of a little boy for who Lord Krishna assumed a very unique incarnation of a half man and half lion! This form of the Lord though looks very ferocious is most loved by little Vaishnavas who celebrate his appearance through dramas and hymns. At BGIS, we welcomed the Lord with the auspicious Narasimha Homa, a fire sacrifice invoking the Lord's blessings. During the day, students heard the pastimes of Lord Narasimha Dev and then rehearsed for the dramas and Kirtan that were to be put up in the evening for parents and other guests. While the primary graders showed the pastime of how and why Lord Narasimha Dev appeared, middle showed the pastime of how Lord Narasimha Dev showed his mercy to the Muslim tyrant, Chand Kazi, during Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's time in Bengal. High school students presented a very unique drama on how the deity of Lord Narasimha Dev came to be installed in the Mayapur temple. It was one of the most well scripted and presented dramas. Thanks to all the students and teachers the festival was indeed a feast to the ears and eyes and the audience including the parents and other guests went home very happy after the sumptuous dinner prasadam.

HARIDWAR RETREAT SCHOOL TRIP TO RISHIKESH (PRAHLAD, GD 9TH)

When we were given the news that we were going to a field trip to Rishikesh, there was a chill in our spine. We got very excited. We all kept planning about the trip. As the day came and we all were ready. Our bus was supposed to leave at 9:00 pm but it started pouring and everyone thought it to be a spoiler but that didn't stop us. We all took our instruments on the well-roofed stage and did tremendous kirtan that kept our mood on. At around 10:48 we left the campus and got into the bus. Slowly the seats turned into beds and everyone dreamt about the beautiful Rishikesh!





We reached early the next morning and checked into our hotel which was pretty comfortable, had a shower and went to the temple. The first day was meant for rest. Only in the evening, we engaged in sweet kirtan and then dinner. The second day we went to 'Saptarishi Ghat' which is where the seven 'Rishis' came to take bath. We had fun taking bath there. The next day we went to Dev Prayag which is the place where Bhagirathi and Alaknanda met. The way was full of twists and turns that all of us felt terribly nauseous. The meeting was such a fabulous sight that I could not take my eyes off. We went down and did kirtan. Before this, we went to a Ram Sita temple which was very old and heard a story of an old Mataji(lady) who used to cook for Lord Ram till she was 102 years. There we took a bath in the Ganges and got refreshed. We had lunch on the banks of the Ganges and then left for Haridwar. Our school has a wonderful Gita Pathshala in Dehradun where many kids, teachers, students, and elders come to take classes on the Bhagavad Gita and that's where we went on day three. This was one of the most eco-friendly schools I had ever seen. There were trees which I had seen for the first time in my life! There were blueberry trees, amla trees and many beautiful trees that gave an extravagant look to the Pathshala. I totally felt like I was in the lap of Mother Nature, and was totally blissful. Here we did kirtan and our principal gave a lecture and cleared some of our DIYVT and the doubts of outsiders who were taking this Gita course. We had dinner there and headed back to Haridwar. The fifth day was a day of challenge between the teams set by the principal. Today was the day of quiz on the bank of mother Ganges on the topic of Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Bhagavatam. With 58 points my team had a wonderful win.

It was a gorgeous moment for all of us. We were told that we would get our prizes back at school. Day six was the best of all, as we were going to the fun valley, water cum amusement park. All of us enjoyed ourselves to the full. We took each and every ride. Post this we went back to our rooms and packed as the next day we had to return back to Vrindavan. On the day we left, we visited Shukatal as it was on our way to Vrindavan. This was the place where Shukadeva Goswami spoke the Bhagavatam to Maharaja Parikshit. Also, there were many parrots there. We took lunch in a Hanuman temple and then left for Vrindavan. While we were getting closer and closer to Vrindavan some sort of happiness was entering our hearts. We didn't know why it came but we felt like we were returning to our true home, but still, there was also an irritating feeling when we saw our school and remembered the heavy syllabus and studies. School may be irritating but we miss it when it ends. And we will especially miss wonderful retreats such as this one!



Experiences of school retreat of Haridwar

(Ujjwal Raj / Class-IX)

Experiences remain with us as memories, which eventually become a source of inspiration. They give us many realizations. One such experience that is carved in my memory was a trip of six days to Haridwar organized by our school for our advancement in Krsna consciousness.

Haridwar or "Gateway to Hari" is a wonderful place. It is surrounded by beautiful green mountains, waterfalls, and mother Ganga flows there giving pleasure to everyone who takes shelter of her. Though I had visited the place before, I was not aware of the many glories of Haridwar. I, along with my group went to many beautiful places, such as Devprayag, different Ganga Ghats. I came to know many wonderful descriptions of Haridwar by attending lectures in the mornings and evenings given by our teachers. There were many lessons that I learned throughout the journey such as, who is the only infinite? Krishna is the only absolute personality, benefits of having Ganga bath and how to progress in Krishna consciousness by being healthy. I also came to know that

mother Ganga is the direct mercy of the Lord, who actually comes to us as charanamrita (holy water from the feet) of the Lord. Therefore, taking bath in Ganga and chanting made me feel blessed. I felt it was an opportunity and arrangement of the Lord for his sons. It was as if complete scenery of Vrindavan was visible in Haridwar because of its unpolluted environment. That's what Krishna wanted to show us – a place away from Vrindavan but like the original Vrindavan.

The only thing we need is to become qualified to see holy places. These are the ways, through which Krishna attracts us, just to make us free from all miseries. This was Krishna's unconditional love towards us, which I experienced a lot throughout the trip.

*I have a lot to say,
But I am unable to pay,
Because I can't describe the
The mercy of Radhey.*

Guru Purnima – Teacher's day

Guru Purnima is a special day in the Vaishnava Calendar dedicated for expressing gratitude to the holy saints who have sacrificed their lives to teach the humanity about God and how to attain Him. This day is also the appearance day anniversary of Srila Vyasadev, son of sage Parashar & Satyavati, who is the literary incarnation & descended to write all the Vedas, Puranas & Mahabharat. On this day Gaudiya Vaishnavs also celebrate Srila Sanatan Goswami disappearance day. Assembly started with Gurupuja by offering flowers to Srila Prabhupada, who have delivered the whole world by teaching Krishna consciousness. All the teachers were garlanded by students & appreciated in the assembly.



To understand, appreciate & express gratitude to teachers in the lives of students, BGIS celebrates that day as teacher's day. We should really have one such day, and fortunately we have one because transcending the knowledge to the young minds is not an easy thing and to make such things possible, we have the teachers and always it's good to appreciate such services because it is an obvious thing that when we appreciate someone for his/her service he improves more and more and atleast he can happily continue his service.

There are different ways in which we celebrate or so to say appreciate their service in our school BGIS, we have this culture of the seniors teaching their fellow juniors. This year

The 10th and 12th Graders were assigned different classes with two students per class for each and every subject. At the time when we were being assigned with our classes all were very nervous but we all praised each and every one for their courage to come up and take the service for a day. All the classes were fixed accordingly and the timetable was put up. Everyone, especially the teachers were very excited to see their students act in their place.

When we attempted our first class, it was a bit difficult to manage the duties. Rest of the classes also went fine. Meanwhile, we also heard many moments from our fellow friends while teaching but it was pretty clear that all enjoyed being a teacher for a day. But, you know what the big thing here was? Firstly, now we got to know that what position we had in actual.

Secondly, we understood the importance of our teachers. We never thought that those cute little chubbies could be such a big deal to be handled and this is where we understood the amount of hardwork our teachers put in. They work day and night only for us. It's a big thing to tolerate such a mess every day. So, we the Gurukulis at the end salute all the teachers of the world who selflessly work not only for themselves but also for the betterment of the students, the future generation, who bring the better future to a nation and ultimately a bright better future to the WORLD...



BGIS Annual Spiritual Retreat 2019 to SRI MAYAPUR DHAM

During their values and scriptural study classes in Vrindaranyam, students of BGIS were shown the magnificent deities of Sri Sri Radha Madhav and Sri Sri Pancha Tattva in Mayapur on screen. Ever since, they were waiting to go to Sri Mayapur dham and behold the beautiful forms of the deities.

On 2nd May 2019, around 200 students of BGIS along with teachers were set to visit Sri Mayapur dham for a spiritual retreat. As everyone swarmed the Mathura station to board the train to Durgapur, the weather was very warm but children seemed to be indifferent as they were brimming with excitement to be on train with all their friends. It was a fun filled journey with children doing kirtan on the train and playing all indoor games they could think of. Many children played the unique 'Devotee Antakshari', a game where they took turns to sing a verse or a bhajan from the alphabet that came at the end of the last verse or bhajan.

We were pleasantly welcomed by soothing rain showers in Mayapur and children were very happy to check-in to their rooms in Gita Bhavan. The trip was filled with melodious kirtan, enlivening lectures, visiting places of different pastimes of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and of course lots of prasadam!

Everyone had memorable experiences. As shared by Harsh Ranjan (grade 10), "I wanted to sing in the temple for the Lordships and my desire was actually fulfilled when I was given a chance to sing Narasimha arati on one of the days! It was like my dream come true!!"

Bhavaya (grade 8) said, "Mataji, It's so nice here....the deities are like living here!"

Even teachers had many memorable experiences. Suvarna mataji who serves in the Child Protection Office shares, "The best part of the trip was building good relationships with all teachers".

Indeed the Mayapur trip brought the community of BGIS closer together to serve the mission of Srila Prabhupada.



SRI MAYAPUR DHAM



A Tribute to our Founder SRILA PRABHUPADA

OFFERING TO PRABHUPAD

(Anurag Mishra, Gd 10th)

I offer my humble obeisance unto the great founder Acharya, Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. I am very much grateful to Prabhupada for what all he did for all of us. If Prabhupada would not have been there today then I might not have been standing on my legs. His huge step brought a huge change in masses. Did anybody expect such a change?

NO!

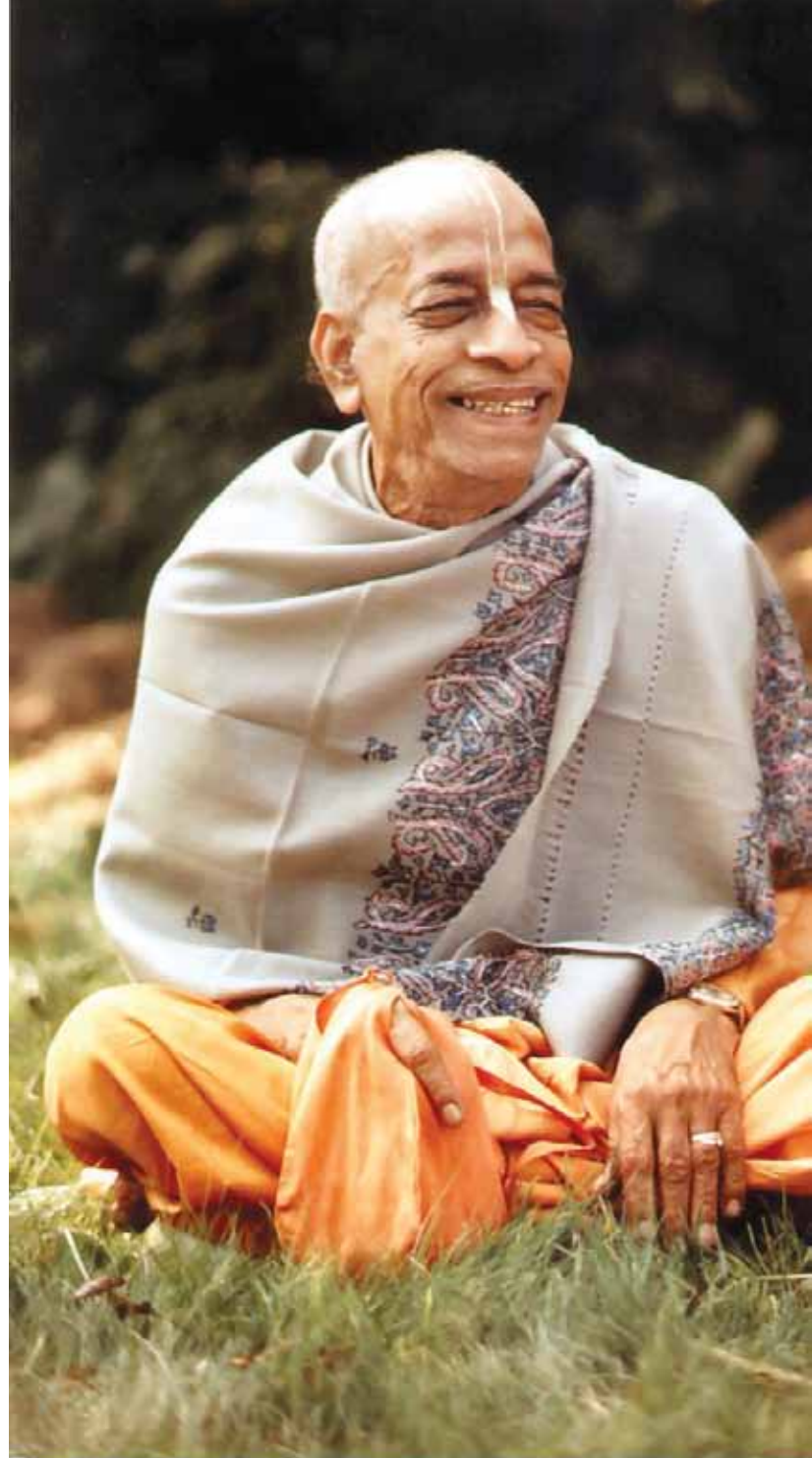
Prabhupada is just like Narada Muni who brings down the transcendental knowledge from the Vaikuntha. In the same way, Prabhupada is also providing us with this nectarean knowledge for our upliftment. Prabhupada was, is and would be an ideal man, son, husband, and an ideal disciple and the greatest spiritual master forever.

Just see his sincerity towards his master which brought him a huge success in life. Not only this but just because of Prabhupada today I finally know my true identity, my true relationship with Krishna and many things.

Now at least am glad that I have opened my spiritual bank which only 35-40% of the people in the world have opened. It is a big thing and for this, all credits just go to one great soul, Prabhupada.

May by Krishna and Prabhupada's grace & mercy my whole family and myself will surely go back and join him forever.

Nama-om vishnupadaya
Krishna presthaya- bhutale
SrimateBhaktivedanta
Svaminiti-namine
Namaste sarasvatideve
Gauravani- prachanine
Nirvishesha-Shunyavadi
Paschataya- desatarine
SRILA-PRABHUPAD KI JAY!



AN OFFERING TO SRILA PRABHUPADA

(Biswajit Reang, Gd 10th)

I offer my obeisances unto the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada who had gone through all the suffering to make this society which teaches about Krishna consciousness and how to love Krishna. Srila Prabhupada just with 40 rupees in his hand he went to America on the Jaladutta ship and he had two heart-attack on the ship but still, he didn't give up because he had to complete the mission which was given by his spiritual master Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati Thakur. If Prabhupada would

would not have been there to make this international society of Krishna Consciousness, I don't know where would have I been right now, I might be a meat eater, drinker etc. Just because of the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, I have not done it all. Now I know how to chant Krishna's name and I know who the real God (Krishna) is. Srila Prabhupada also taught us many things like how to lead a good, peaceful and satisfying. I have been thinking that if Prabhupada would not have come to this world then where would have I been right now. I am grateful Srila Prabhupada for everything he had given to us.

GRACIOUS PRABHUPAD

(Chaitanya Shree, Gd 10th)

Some people just walk in life,
Whose words cut deeper than a knife?

They seem like cutting,
But they really are mending.

You don't know who they are
But, yes, they remove the scar.

They are not ordinary beings,
But act so for the almighty's dreams.

Who was he, who just came & did not go
Cos, he is there for us & to him, we bow.
He was the one who gave us light
In the midst of the darkest night

He was the sun's ray
Who took us far away?

He was forlorn in the American winter,
When there was no FB, Insta, and Twitter

Everything that you ever dreamed of
Disappear in when you wake up.

But his dreams never vanished
Cos he dreamed for those who panicked

He will never disappear
For those who see him there.

There in his instructions & books,
He will always be remembered for his grateful looks.

Inside you, there is an evergreen class
But for everything, gracious prabhupad.

CANDLE

(Mohan Srivastava, Gd 10th)

When the world was filled with immense darkness people bewildered, infused with unawareness like a candle that lights the darkest night you entered people's lives to change their inner sight.

The wind tries to blow it with all its might. The flame, though flickers, and continues to shine bright. So was your life with countless problems. You still withstood them despite severe criticism.

On a moonless night, when stars are hidden. The world was unable to see its own reflection. Expels entire darkness, this tiny lives origination. So you did brighten their lives and condition.

Though the wax, reduces, it has the least concern,
The candle's flame continues to burn
So were you, despite spars opportunities, so were you
despite spars opportunities, Determines and fixed to preach
the hippies.

But one shortcoming that not only a candle Everyone in the world has to face this scandal Vanishing from memories with the passage of time, Is the law that is absolute ultimate and prime?

But even the laws have to themselves abandon. When the time comes from such as an expectation. Only a few miles away is felt a rose's fragrance.
But beyond this world, your glories shall enhance.

To the world, you gave such happiness and joy.
That even the time can't destroy.
Through your books, you have brought storms,
That shall continue to guide the generations to come.

Such a life with struggles and problems up,
That anyone would have long before given up.
You succeeded with a faithful and determined attitude.

To you
SRILA PRABHUPADA – A HEARTFUL GRATITUDE

OFFERING TO PRABHUPAD

(Priyansh Khandelwal, Gd 10th)

It all began with just a few sentences,
His guru asked him to reduce western grievances.
These words, he carried, in the core of his heart,
Though he faced struggles, he died not to fall apart.
Determined he was and his aim was clear,
To deliver the fallen souls, from this sphere.
Began commenting books and printed
"Back to Godhead". He tried everything to make his message
spread.
His efforts were worthy but Indians uninterested,
He thought of going out and makes the west interested.
With just a few youngsters, ISCKON came into being,
With great ideas, began the historic thing.
People could find real happiness there,
They chanted and danced and overcome their fears.
Slowly and slowly it further expanded,
And became the only thing that people demanded.
Day by day beautiful temples came up,
Western world civilized when bad habits, they gave up.
Christians and Muslims and Hindus were now free of
enmity,
They realized that their purpose was to spread humanity.
The world was now overjoyed with a transcendental
environment,
He brought the world in peace by his movement.
He did, what no one could in several centuries,
The messenger of God-Bhaktivedanta swami.

AN OFFERING TO SRILA PRABHUPADA

(Rakshit, Gd 10th)

In the last ten years of his life he wrote more than 80 books, he opened more than 100 temples worldwide, 14 times he crossed all over the globe, initiated thousands of disciples, established an international society ISKCON. Can you imagine such a person, such a person was Srila Prabhupada, he has made impossible things possible. Anyone of us even can't think of what he has done. These words can't describe the respect that I have for him in my heart. He has transformed thousands of lives and brought the biggest revolution in society by establishing ISKCON. Lakhs of people are connected to ISKCON today and it has more than 800 temples all over the world. This society continuously growing and will continue to grow. Today everyone is accepting the message of Lord Chaitanya which was spread by Srila Prabhupada all over the world. People are realizing that this world is a place of misery and they are taking to Krsna consciousness because of him. All this Prabhupada could do because he had strong faith in Krsna and he never lost hope, the result is before us. At last, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude in the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada.
All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

OFFERING TO SRILA PRABHUPAD (A SUN OF THIS DARK WORLD)

(Surendra Lohkna, Gd 10th)

I, Surendra Lohkna of grade 10, offer my obeisances to the founder-acharya of the ISKCON A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad.

Srila Prabhupad is the father of all of us. He gave us a way to live in this material world. He made this material world comfortable for us by giving us the most powerful weapon that is Krishna conciseness. He was a great leader who changed many societies in this material world. He changed people internally, not externally. External change takes place for some time then it vanishes itself but internal means within the hearts of people that remain forever. We can see the great leaders and freedom fighters that also brought changes but it was for some time.

Srila Prabhupad brought such a change that cannot be restricted or vanished. We can see that after Srila Prabhupad left, his Krishna conciseness movement is growing more and more. No one can stop it. People who joined ISKCON are happy and separating themselves from the miseries of this world. A number of people join ISKCON every day. So now we understand that How Srila Prabhupad was such a GREAT LEADER.

Srila Prabhupad changed the western people by giving them absolute truth and the proper goal of their life. He inaugurated about 108 temples globally. Three of these 108 temples are in Mumbai, Mayapur, and Vrindavan in India.

Srila prabhupad opened Gurukula for the children to get into Krishna consciousness and to give supreme truth. It was a golden opportunity for children. The children can get everything in Gurukula by the mercy of Srila Prabhupad. We follow a daily routine from morning to evening, We go to Mangla Aarti early in the morning and in the evening we take medicine to get rid of this material world by doing Sankirtana. We can learn here deity worship doing Japa and Sankirtana which is most important in this KALYUGA that we cannot gain in any other schools. I am also a part or student of this most precious Gurukula. I am very happy here. I got here whatever I need in this life and in this world that is the best education and the best Culture. By the mercy of Srila Prabhupada, I came in this Gurukula and I am very, very grateful to Srila Prabhupada. He came in this world in form of SUN and SPREAD his rays to remove the darkness from this world. He gave the real eye to see THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD, LORD KRISHNA BY GIVING HARE KRISHNA MAHAMANTRA, HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISNA KRISNAKRISNA HARE HARE HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE. I will also follow the footsteps of Srila Prabhupad and chant the Hare Krishna Mahamantra.

MY OFFERING TO DEAR SRILA PRABHUPADA

(Tanisk Gupta, Gd 10th)

I, Tanishk Gupta of grade 10 studying in BGIS offer my humble and respectful obeisances to the founder-acharya of the ISKCON A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad. He is the founder of the gurukul in which I am studying. Srila Prabhupada single-handedly spread Vaishnava / Hindu dharma all over the world establishing 108 temples and several schools in India and throughout the west. What I had written, I didn't write under some pressure or force of our teachers. I wrote because I wanted to share what I feel and think about Srila Prabhupada. These words I wrote with my heart. Actually, I never thought that I would come in this Gurukula to study, I would chant like this, I would go Mangala-arati every day you don't believe how much I have changed. Even my family who is not a devotee but they have started

calling me a devotee. And that could happen only because of Srila Prabhupad.

When I thought that I have only two years to leave this Gurukula. My eyes start filling with tears then somehow I start to understand myself that "don't worry this is a material world full of miseries and this is also one kind of misery that I have to leave this Gurukula".

When we do kirtan, sometimes I get emotional and suddenly start pondering that "Oh! LORD KRISHNA why I am here in this world what is the purposes of my life."

These all things could happen because of only Srila Prabhupad. I am grateful from bottom of my heart to Srila Prabhupad with my heart.

THANK YOU

*By the soldier of Srila Prabhupada
Tanisk Gupta, (Gd 10th)*

HARE KRISHNA.

GLORIES OF SRILA PRABHUPADA

(Vraj, Gd 8th)

Today I Vraj want to appreciate Srila Prabhupada because he is very great. The question arises why is he great? Because he obeyed his guru and ISKCON he created. In Bengal, he was born in 1896. He was a devotee of Krsna that was fixed. Rathayatra at five years age was done by Abhay Jagganath, Baldev, Shubhadra Maharani ki Jai! He worshipped Radha and Krsna at age of 9. By whom he was made in devotional service perfect and fine. He met his guru in 1922. At the age of 26, he was devoted to Krsna that was true. He took initiation in 1933. From the material world to make us free. His guru insisted to go to the west. And preach about Krsna and become best. He went to the west at age of 69. He had 2 heart attacks but with mercy he again became fine. He had nothing except holy books and 40 rupees. He started his movement by distributing prasad of cookies. In his mission he was successful. The act done by him was always wonderful. So, I want to conclude my poem by giving a message. Please follow Prabhupada because he struggled for us in his old age. Please follow Prabhupada and what he said. By following this we can go back to Godhead. All glories to you. I am your servant that is true.

WHO IS HE?

(Kumar Kovid Kaushik, Gd 7th)

- Born in 1896
- To do some mystic
- In the world
- With just sixteen words
- Who is he
- Where is he
- He has the spiritual sky's key
- He lives forever in the world
- Chanting that sixteen word

**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAM HARE RAM RAM RAM HARE
HARE & BE HAPPY**

So where is he
Does he exist?
He changed hippies into happies
By chanting in the midst
In the tompskin square park, he chanted
Thinking of KRISHNA he meditated
CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU'S orders he carried out
Than lotus of KRISHNA sprout
We are happy to be with you
My PRABHUPAD we love
My PRABHUPAD obeisances unto you
My PRABHUPAD we love you
But we are so unfortunate that
We are not following you
Why we are doing this
What should we do?
PRABHUPAD said
Chant



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAM HARE RAM RAM RAM HARE
HARE & BE HAPPY

So let us chant &
Carry out the orders of Great Saint
So let us chant

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAM HARE RAM RAM RAM HARE
HARE & BE HAPPY

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

(Harsh Ranjan, Gd 9th)

Some motivational speaker can bring some changes in you for a short period of time. But after some time we forget those words told by him and return to our original nature then that hearing is just a waste of time nothing else. And we even don't try to know that weather the speaker whom we hear follows that himself or not. It is just like a parrot, that whatever we tell, it repeats for some time, but does not understand what is correct & what is wrong. It just accepts whatever said to it.

But it is also a great thing to learn from the parrot that it accepts things told to it. It depends on the person with whom it stays.

But Srila Prabhupada is not like a motivational speaker. He is the one who showed by his own example. Whatever He spoke, not just for a few days He followed His spiritual master's instructions and the teachings of Lord Chaitanya which He taught throughout His entire life.

And by His grace many hippies were turned into happies, actually not even happies they became great devotees. Who first perfected their lives and also preached this message of peace to the whole world. As told by Lord CaitanyaMahaprabhu in His instructions.

Such was our dear Prabhupada who thought of the welfare of the human society, not caring for his health even. He was determined on the instruction given by his Guru Maharaj.

I thank Srila Prabhupada also for bringing out such an exemplary school which really is giving good citizens and devotees to human society. And of which school I am also a part.

I am proud to be a part of Srila Prabhupada's school.

SPIRITUAL MASTER PRABHUPADA

(Mayank, Gd 6th)

Who is that born in Kolkata
Who is that disciple of Bhaktisiddhanta
Who is that having typhoid
Putting a Tulsi leaf to avoid

Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Who is that holy man
Lord Krishna's biggest fan
Who is that Krishna's devotee
Always wear kurta dhoti
Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Who is that holding sanyasi stick
with the purest Japa beads
who went to foreign lands
To preach his all west friends
Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Who translated Srimad- Bhagvatam
Who taught us what should be done
Who translated BhagvadGita
To please Krishna ram and Sita
Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Who sang kirtan very sweet
Who stopped hippies from eating meat
Who made hippies into happies
Who made them Krishna's puppies
Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

Who did Jagganathrath yatra at the age of five
Who lived a very long Krishna consciousness life
Who is that Krishna's personal servant
His devotion is as big as an elephant
Jaya Prabhupada! Jaya Srila Prabhupada!

That is our dearest Prabhupada
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna KrishnaKrishna Hare Hare
Hare Ram Hare Ram RamRam Hare Hare

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SECTOR 37, BAHADURGARH

सुपर स्टार अजय देवगन

द्वारा शुरू की गयी NY सिनेमा चेन अब जल्द ही बहादुरगढ़ में।

बॉलीवुड के सुपर स्टार अजय देवगन द्वारा हाल ही में शुरू की गयी NY सिनेमा चेन अब जल्द ही बहादुरगढ़ आ रही है। यह सिनेमा HL CITY में स्थित, बहादुरगढ़ के सबसे बड़े मॉल, AVENUE 37 में खुलेगा। इसके अलावा, पूरी दुनिया में मशहूर SWISS होटल का लुत्फ भी AVENUE 37 मॉल में उठाया जा सकेगा।

बहादुरगढ़ की नयी पहचान बनाते हुए AVENUE 37, HL CITY जोर शोर से बन रहा है।

बेहतरीन ऐंकर स्टॉर्ज के साथ साथ यहाँ, फूड ज़ोन और ग्लोबल ब्रैंड्स के आउटलेट भी देखें जायेंगे। अगर आप भी यहाँ इन्वेस्ट करना चाहते हैं,

कॉल करे

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